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HOLLY'S CHARITY NIGHT AIMS TO HELP SUPPORT BRAIN RESEARCH



LEFT: Holly Davies-Timbrell has a life-threatening medical condition. A charity night is being organised in Bridgend to raise funds for vital research

(FULL STORY ON PAGE 8).



ABOVE: Democracy is the theme of 'Parliament Week' this year and, as a result, Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon has been visiting a number of local schools. She is pictured with the school council at Maes-yr-Haul Primary School. (For more details, see the MP's column on page 2).

MAESTEG MAN (51) JAILED Eight years for sex attacks on two youngsters

A FORMER electronics company manager has been jailed for eight years at Cardiff Crown Court, for carrying out sex attacks on a boy and a girl.

Nigel Carter, 51, of Harvey Street,

CARDIFF CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

Maesteg, admitted eight charges of indecently assaulting the two victims and one charge of attempting to rape the youth.

Carter held his head in his hands as Judge John Rogers

QC told him: "An aggravating feature was the age of the children, as well as the nature of the acts."

"The gravity of a case of this nature has to be determined on its particular circumstances - and they are very grave."

Prosecutor Nicholas Gareth Jones said the offences occurred in mid-Glamorgan.

"Sometimes he would bribe the girl with sweets and other rewards."

Since the incidents came to light, said Mr Jones, the boy had seen a counsellor.

Carter had texted him asking that what occurred "remain buried".

When Carter was arrested, he made full admissions.

There was, said his counsel, Hugh Wallace, only one

piece of mitigation - his guilty plea.

"He deserves credit for that. It is rare for such persons to take what they have done on the chin."

"I accept that there was a degree of coercion in respect of one of the victims."

He said the effect on Carter following his arrest was dramatic.

"This will be his first taste of custody, and I realise it has to be a lengthy sentence."

Carter was ordered to register as a sex offender for life.

A town is hit by food festival fever this weekend!

COWBRIDGE is gearing itself up for another weekend devoted to celebrating food and drink.

Whether you are a gourmet with refined taste and an extensive knowledge of Michelin-starred restaurants, or someone who likes simple food with fine ingredients and no trimmings - the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival is for you!

With suppliers clamouring to put their wares on sale, the organisers have been able to put the emphasis on variety and quality, and the town is expecting another huge influx of visitors.

The festival takes place on October 29-30, starting at 9.30am on Saturday, and 10am on Sunday.

(See pages 20 and 21 for more details).

Remembrance Day plans for Bridgend

BRIDGEND will remember those

DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK THIS SATURDAY!



who have fallen in conflict at its Remembrance Day parade and service, on Sunday, November 13.

The following approximate timings have been released in advance of the day.

Those taking part in the parade should gather at the Embassy car park at around 10am.

The parade will form up at 10.20am and it will march at

10.30am.

The march is scheduled to arrive at the War Memorial in Dunraven Place at 10.45am, and the service will begin at 10.55am.

The Last Post will sound at 11am, and the service will end at 11.30am.

Dignitaries will take the salute at the War Memorial at 11.45am, and the parade will disperse at 12 noon.

Drugs supply: man arrested in Bridgend

POLICE in Bridgend have arrested a 23-year-old man on suspicion of drugs supply offences, after a suspect was stop-searched in the Coity Road area, which resulted in a search at a nearby address when Class A drugs were recovered.

Sergeant Rhodri Davies, of the Bridgend Neighbourhood Policing Team, said: "Operation Hutton is ongoing in the Bridgend area and anyone who uses and deals in drugs will be targeted."

A man has been released on police bail pending further enquiries.

PLANS FOR REST HOME

AS The GEM went to press, it was revealed that plans have been placed for major changes at the Rest Convalescent Home in Rest Bay.

Gary Mayo Property Developments of Ystrad Mynach has applied for a change of use to convert the existing home to residential.

The proposal is also to build a new convalescent home, and to demolish some existing structures.

There will be new residential accommodation at the rear of the existing building.

The GEM hopes to have full details next week.

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Parliament Week seeks to 'rekindle awareness of how democracy' works

REMEMBER, REMEMBER the 5th of November will be a familiar refrain over the next week, commemorating the attempt by Guy Fawkes to blow up the Houses of Parliament in 1605.

This year, November 5 will also coincide with a new initiative that aims to increase understanding of parliamentary democracy in the UK.

'Parliament Week', running from October 31 to November 6 seeks to demonstrate how parliamentary democracy works, how it affects people and most importantly how they can participate in it.

In recent years, for many people Parliament has perhaps become distant or at worst irrelevant, its work and history unfamiliar. And yet, it has an impact on all of us.

This year's theme is 'Stories of Democracy', which seeks to highlight the stories of people who have participated in or contributed to democracy in the UK, both in the past and today.

From the abolition of the slave trade to the campaign for women's votes, Parliament has been at the centre of every major development of democracy in the UK. It has also hosted events and debates of high drama.

This has taken me into schools, as often as my crowded diary will allow, to talk to young people about Parliament and the way we work. In Cornelly Primary, the morning assembly held a parliamentary debate on a school rule.

In Maes yr Haul, I met the school council to dis-

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive column from Westminster for The GEM.



cuss their role as a conduit between their class mates and teachers debating rules, desires, plans for change, accountability and responsibility. The election of the school council is for many pupils the first lesson in democracy.

Defence was discussed in Tremauns. Here we looked at the lessons learned from our armed forces.

We looked at how they find the energy and commitment to carry on doing their jobs through the most adverse of conditions because of their desire to be the best they can possibly be and to support their comrades.

This desire to achieve full potential, whatever that may be, needs to drive each of us and especially every young person.

Governments have a responsibility to fund education, school buildings, books, teachers, set standards and targets.

Pupils (hopefully with parental encouragement and support) have responsibility for reaching their full potential, so they can feel the energy that comes from knowing you are learning all you can, rather than coasting.

Teachers can teach – but only those who want to can learn.

Next week, I will be visiting more local schools, along with a quiz, to get pupils thinking about what Parliament and democracy means to them.

The aim is to have some fun, but also to get the message across to children and young people that they have a stake in parliamentary democracy, both now and in the future.

Parliament itself has an excellent education service, which organises visits for schools where children can spend a day in Parliament, including a tour and classroom activities. I aim to encourage as

many local schools as possible to visit Westminster.

I am also visiting Bridgend College in conjunction with the Parliamentary Outreach Service, which regularly visits community groups and organisations to give presentations about Parliament and how it works.

Bridgend College is to send a group of students to Westminster to see it working first hand.

If you would like more information about any of these services or to arrange a tour, please get in touch with me.

More information about events and activities for Parliament Week can be found at www.parliament-week.org.

As part of Parliament Week, a national photography project called 'Picturing Democracy' has been launched.

The project encourages people to take a picture that commemorates an historical event or person that contributed to the development of democracy, or an image that represents a modern story of democracy in UK.

More details can be found at

www.flickr.com/groups/picturingdemocracy.

In a week where we have watched Libyans' fight for freedom, we need to look again at what democracy means to us.

Harold Wilson was in Number 10 and Richard Nixon in the White House when Gaddafi took control of Libya.

Democracy is not static: it is a changing evolving entity. Since the Wilson government, we have moved forward, democratically, in many different ways – some good, some bad.

We have greater transparency, greater communication, and devolution.

Libyans have suffered repression, fear and torture for voicing opinions or seeking change. Democracy makes it easy to be cynical, to opt out of engagement, to decry politics, politicians and its institutions.

Parliament Week seeks to rekindle awareness of how democracy works, how citizens can and must engage with it and tells the stories of the many brave people who fought and died to defend it.

A quote comes to mind, from Winston Churchill: "It has been said that democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others that have been tried."

Celebrating unsung sons and daughters

TO mark Sons and Daughters Week (October 24-30), children in foster care families in Bridgend are receiving special recognition from Bridgend County Borough Council.

The council's fostering service is paying tribute to the vital contribution that foster carers' own children make to the success of fostering, by organising a special event at the Brewery Field, Bridgend.

The children will enjoy a fun Halloween party with lots of themed entertainment including music, puzzles, games and competitions. Prizes will be awarded for the best fancy dress on the evening.

"Research shows that the relationship between the sons and daughters of foster carers and the fostered children in their home can make or break a placement," said Coun Alana Davies, cabinet member for children and young people.

"Fostering has a huge impact on the whole household. Sons and daughters of the foster carers are a key element in the success, sharing everything from their parents to their toys with the foster children.

"It is essential that they feel their role in the family is both recognised and celebrated."

Natalie Silcox, Fostering Manager, said: "The sons and daughters of foster carers make a world of difference to the foster child by helping them feel welcome and part of a loving family, and we want them to know that we value their contributions.

"Our event is a great way for the children to meet others in the same situation, have fun and feel supported, and allows us to say a big thank you to them."

Ten-year-old Rachel, the daughter of a local foster carer, said: "I like my parents fostering, because I get to meet new people and they then are my new friends."

Adam, the 13-year-old son of a foster carer, said: "Being part of a fostering family is a big change but the support I receive from our social worker is brilliant."

Seven-year-old Matthew added: "Fostering has made me realise how lucky I am to have a nice family and a nice home."

"I am happy to share my house with other children, so that they can have a safe and happy home, too."

Let pumpkins go to waste (collection!)

HOUSEHOLDS are being urged to have a green Halloween by remembering to recycle their pumpkins as part of their weekly food waste collections.

Bridgend County Borough Council, and partners May Gurney, are advising residents they can chop up their leftover lanterns for their brown food caddies, or simply leave whole pumpkins next to their containers to be picked up as part of their weekly recycling collections.

Last year's pumpkin recycling rally resulted in a huge surge of food waste being collected in the borough, and BCBC is hoping for similar success again this year.

However, residents should make sure any whole pumpkins are left securely next to their waste containers so they don't roll away or

cause a hazard.

Coun Phil White, cabinet member for communities, said: "Last year's results were so impressive that we have made the same arrangements with May Gurney again. It means whole pumpkins can be collected as part of the weekly recycling pick-ups, even if they are too big for the brown food caddies.

"We would just ask people to be especially careful when they put them out by ensuring they are safely secured and don't start rolling away. Using the other containers will help keep them in place.

"If you want to have an extra green Halloween you could always go online and find recipes for your pumpkin flesh as well. Waste Awareness Wales's website offers plenty of tips."

Local health watchdog seeks more volunteers

ABERTAWE Bro Morgannwg Community Health Council (ABM CHC) is currently looking for volunteer members.

ABM CHC is the public's independent NHS 'watchdog' in the Bridgend, Swansea, and Neath Port Talbot local authority areas.

"An important part of the role is to carry out announced and unannounced visits to health care premises including hospitals and GP surgeries," said Phil Williams, Chief Officer of ABM CHC.

"They act as the eyes and ears of patients and the public, listening to their concerns and working with the health service to improve the quality

of patient care.

"We are looking for people from all walks of life – the most important requirement is a genuine interest in improving health services for the community. Members will be expected to commit to between three and five days per month, although this will be in sessions of a few hours at a time rather than full days. Members are not paid but are able to claim travel and other expenses."

"If anyone is interested in joining the CHC they can get in touch with me on 01639 892271 or office@abmchc.org.uk. We are also taking on co-opted members for a year at a time which would be useful if anyone is not sure about being a full member."

SHARE YOUR NEWS

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gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Tractor run is a great success...



PICTURED: Eddie Jenkins, with his prize-winning tractor.

THE second annual vintage tractor run took place at Ogmere Castle on Sunday, October 16.

A total of 34 assorted tractors took part, with two old Land Rovers joining in the fun.

The fundraising event was organised by Basil George. All the money raised, totalling £900, went to Macmillan Cancer Support and fundraisers Val Weaver and Claire Davies were on hand throughout the morning, taking entries and allotting numbers to tractors.

The judges this year were David George and Rees Lean, who both have many years of tractor experience.

The tractor run was supported by a number of people who made it a great success: Robert Williams of Ogmere Farm, on whose land the event took place; members of the Bridgend Lions Club, who kindly did the road marshalling; Ewenny Pottery who donated the first prize; B S Supplies who donated the class trophies and medals; and the Aberthin Tractor Boys, who supplied the tea, coffee and Welsh cakes.

The best overall

tractor on the field this year was a David Brown model 850, driven by Eddie Jenkins of Maesteg, who was presented with an engraved Ewenny Pottery tankard. The class prizes went to:

- David Brown – Eddie Jenkins, Maesteg.
- Ford – Adrian Groves, Pen-y-fai.
- Massey Ferguson – David Perrin, Bridgend.
- Ferguson T.20 – Ian Dodd, Sarn.
- International – Gareth Rees, Brackla.
- Allis Chalmers – Ian Handford, Groesfaen.
- Leyland – Jeff Webb, Peterston-Super-Ely.

Fortunately, the weather was sunny and dry for the run, which covered approximately 12 miles, travelling through Ogmere By Sea, Southerndown, St Brides Major, Southerndown Road Station, Taircross, Ewenny and back to Ogmere Castle. Basil George thanked everyone who attended, and those who gave their support through helping on the day and making donations, resulting in a very successful event.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL NOVEMBER 3)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
27 Thur	08.08	10.5	20.24	10.6
28 Fri	08.55	10.7	21.15	10.7
29 Sat	09.38	10.6	22.03	10.4
30 Sun	08.17	10.2	20.43	9.8
31 Mon	09.11	9.7	21.33	9.2
01 Tues	09.59	9.0	22.24	8.5
02 Wed	10.47	8.4	23.23	7.9
03 Thur	11.54	7.9		

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

LOCAL PARALYMPIAN SIMON PRAISES 'AMAZING DISPLAY'

Following the Flame exhibition officially opens



BCBC's Deputy Leader, Coun David Sage, Simon Richardson MBE, and BCBC's cabinet member for wellbeing, Coun Lyn Morgan.

A SPECIAL exhibition hosted by Bridgend County Borough Council to celebrate Wales's contribution to the Olympic and Paralympic games, is now officially open.

The Following the Flame launch ceremony unveiled a display of sporting heritage, young gymnastic and dance talent, local children's sport-themed art and memorabilia such as the Olympic torch previously carried by Muhammed Ali in Atlanta, a spokeswoman reports.

PROUD HERITAGE

The launch was attended by representatives from the world of sport, commerce and education alongside local Olympic and Paralympic athletes, including Simon Richardson and Steve Brace.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "It's less than one year to go until the 2012 London Olympics and Paralympic Games and this free exhibition intends to explore Wales' proud sporting heritage."

"Bridgend county borough has a strong history of producing Olympic and Paralympic athletes

and the exhibition also recognises the aspirations of local athletes such as world triathlon champion Helen Jenkins."

Paralympic cyclist and double gold medalist Simon Richardson who attended the official opening, said:

"The exhibition is an amazing display, celebrating past Olympic and Paralympic successes whilst aiming to inspire school children and young people to achieve future success in both sport and non-sporting activities."

HARD WORK

"A lot of work has been done behind the scenes and I recommend that everyone comes to see it."

The exhibition at Bridgend Recreation Centre will be open to the public from October 31 to January 11, 2012.

As well as the sporting memorabilia on display, there are interactive activities for children measuring their current physical abilities and discussing their future aspirations.

COUNCILLORS REMEMBER THEIR FORMER COLLEAGUE

COMMUNITY councillors in Ewenny have paid tribute to a former colleague, who died recently.

Speaking on behalf of the community council, clerk Mary Long said: "Ewenny Community Council is sad to report the death of Coun Guy Shackell, who was a councillor for very many years and who will be sadly missed by all the community."

"A minute's silence was observed in memory of Guy. Our condolences go to his wife and family."

At the October meeting of the council, PC Mellor reported there had been no crimes com-

mitted in the community since the last meeting.

Plans are well under way for the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on June 4, 2012.

A village fete is planned, with an evening celebration, followed by fireworks and the lighting of a beacon.

The council has formed a fundraising committee and a fete committee.

A talk was given by staff of EOTAS, who used the village hall last year with great success.

The overhanging branches of trees in Corn town Road, together with the weeds and leaves in Ogmor Road, have been reported to the Vale Council.

£1.8m plan puts Families First in the borough

A FIVE-YEAR programme aimed at helping disadvantaged local children, young people and families, particularly those in or at risk of poverty, will be launched by Bridgend's Children and Young People's Partnership, next year.

The Families First initiative will be funded by Welsh Government and will focus on how fami-

lies can be better supported before their needs become more complex.

The £1.8 million programme is aimed at helping families when issues start to arise, and will also help avoiding more intensive and costly support later on.

Welcoming the plans, Coun Alana Davies, BCBC cabinet member for children and young people, said:

"Families First will complement the excellent work we already undertake jointly with our partners in this area."

"We have shifted our approach from simply caring to proactively supporting our more vulnerable young people and their families."

"Ultimately, it is about this council taking the sort of positive measures which give our children a greater chance of fulfilling their potential and leading safe and healthy lives."

A final Families First submission will now go to Welsh Government and a further report on the development of the programme and integrated working arrangements will go to cabinet before it is implemented in April 2012.

ARTISTS ON SHOW

TONDU and District Art society holds its winter exhibition at the Len Evans Centre, Aberkenfig, on November 12-15 from 10am-6pm (Sunday at 11am-4pm). Free admission.

A RUDGE (for Quiz League)

4. Big Bang Theory.
3. Don Cockell.
2. Mumentum.
1. JF Kennedy.
ANSWERS:

Caerau pupils help launch 'recycle for victory' handbook



LEFT: These children are leading the way with a green lesson for local residents.

A NEW handbook has been launched to help residents recycle even more of their waste - and environment-conscious pupils from Caerau Primary were happy to help!

The free bilingual booklet, which is being delivered to every home in the borough, offers a simple guide to BCBC's weekly recycling collections, how to use household recycling centres and useful information about other environmental issues such as home composting, litter and dog fouling.

Designed as something for residents to read and keep, the handbook aims to capture some of the famous 'reduce, reuse and recycle' Home Front spirit of the 1940s but with a modern twist. So instead of asking communities to 'dig victory', BCBC wants residents to 'recycle for victory' instead!

It even includes recycling facts from the 1940s with their modern day equivalent.

Officially launching it at Caerau Primary, Coun Phil White, BCBC's cabinet member for communities, hopes households will keep the handbook as a useful reference.

Coun White said: "The whole point of the new booklet is to bring all the information about our recycling scheme into one, easy-to-use guide. Our new partnership scheme with May Gurney has been up and running for more than a year now and we have been delighted with the response."

"Thanks to our residents we are now one of the UK's top-performing authorities for recycling and we were recently named Wales's council recycling champions in the national Cylch awards."

"But we recognise that sometimes residents might forget what goes in which box or think that something can be recycled when it can't so this should come in really handy."

"We've tried hard to make the document as attractive and eye-catching as possible so it's something that residents really want to read. I know my household will find this very useful."

He added: "I'm delighted that the children of Caerau have been able to help me launch this guide. Ultimately we are trying to create a cleaner, greener borough for the generations to come and we can all learn a lot from the enthusiasm of our youngsters for recycling."

"Of course Caerau, being one of our newest primary schools, has wonderful green credentials. Sustainability is a key element of its design. For example the school's biomass boiler uses carbon neutral wood pellets and there are solar panels to contribute to the building's hot water system. The school even collects rainwater to flush the toilets and has energy-efficient lighting and under-floor heating system."

"When we consider what a fantastic example our children are setting, I think it can inspire us all to take five minutes to read the booklet and make that extra effort to do all we can to reduce, reuse and recycle."

Derek leads (wet) Walk in the Park!



Derek Brockway offers Terry Harris, Lions president, a sample of his coking skills.

WEATHERMAN Derek Brockway led the start of the recent Bridgend Lions 'Walk in the Park', a charity fundraising event organised jointly by the club and the rural economy development department of BCBC, as the finale of the borough's Love2Walk Festival.

Sadly, his appearance failed to guarantee fine weather at the Brynawr House event but the damp day didn't deter over 120 eager entrants of all ages, who walked or ran a variety of trails through the picturesque parklands.

After warming up with

a vigorous zumba dance and leading the walk, Derek showed off his culinary skills at a demonstration of healthy cooking given by students and staff of Bridgend College, who were among a number of other exhibitors and community groups promoting the theme of living an active healthy lifestyle.

Closing the event, Lions Club president, Terry Harris, thanked Derek for his most enthusiastic contribution and congratulated the entrants who, between them, had raised over £1,500 for their nominated charities.

DJ

Clean bill of health for medication guidelines

NEW guidelines governing how medication is given to adults and older people receiving BCBC care services have been approved.

Cabinet members heard how approximately half of the people receiving domiciliary care need some help with their medication, and the figures for residential services and learning disabilities services are even higher.

They were told the new procedures will ensure greater consistency across care services, help keep pace with changing regulations and promote positive joint working with the NHS.

It also means workers will be better placed to respond to the challenges

of new treatments and modern medicines and that for the first time social care workers will be able to administer specialist techniques including PEG feeding, Epipen emergency treatment and taking blood samples with a Glucometer.

However, no member of staff will be permitted to administer medication unsupervised unless they have been specially trained in the relevant procedures.

The procedures will be subject to review and updated as appropriate to reflect changing national guidance.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "This policy will offer our service users and their loved ones the peace of mind that they are benefiting from quicker, more consistent and quality care."

"This makes much better use of our resources and is a big piece in the jigsaw of integrated working."

"I'm especially pleased that so much expertise has gone into producing the new policy and I really welcome the input from social work managers, practitioners, staff, and the scrutiny of our colleagues in Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board."

"It also takes relevant UK legislation and guidance into account and incorporates the standards produced by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales."

"I think we can feel confident that we have produced a very sound set of guidelines which can only benefit those people who rely on our care services."

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AMs back the campaign against local biomass plant

THE campaign being mounted by residents against plans to build a biomass power station in the Llynfi Valley, has won backing from two regional AMs.

Welsh Conservative AMs Suzy Davies and Byron Davies, who represent South Wales West, have pledged their support to LEAF – The Llynfi Environmental Action Forum, which organised a packed public meeting at Coytrahen.

They are fighting plans by Morgan Credit Energy to build a 25-megawatt biomass power station on the site of the former coal-fired Llynfi Power Station which closed in 1977.

The proposal will affect communities in Tondy, Coytrahen, Shwt, Betws and Llangynwyd and residents of all of them were present at the meeting.

Speaking at the meeting, Suzy Davies said that the Welsh Labour Government was committed to increasing the amount of electricity generated from renewable sources including wind and biomass.

She explained: "This area is on the edge of one of the largest blocks of land designated for wind turbines in the whole of Wales."

"I feel that people living here will be playing more than their part in the future of electricity generation as they more than played their part in the past from the production of coal from the many pits that used to operate locally."

"What I have heard

tonight leads me to think that this is not the best scheme either for the communities which will be affected by pollution, noise and possible traffic disruption, but also from the point of view of securing the nation's future electricity supply."

"There are better places to locate these stations – usually close to a port or in an area where the heat generated during this process can be used."

"In this case, it will be wasted making the station just 27 per cent efficient. That's not good enough in this day and age."

Mrs Davies also offered to put the organisers of the campaign in touch with environmental campaigners at Newbridge on Wye who successfully fought off plans for a biomass station there.

"They may have learned things that this campaign could benefit from," she added.

Byron Davies, speaking after the meeting, said he had been impressed with all the research done by LEAF.

"They have looked at things like the sourcing of the woodchip and it would appear from their figures that the demand for biomass as more and more stations are planned and built will far outstrip the capacity of the supplying countries to meet it."

"There are also environmental issues to consider in the wood-exporting countries which could find themselves being denuded of their forests causing irreparable harm to wildlife and the environment."

"There is probably a

place for biomass in the mix of energy supply but I am not convinced that this valley site, which is so far from the docks where the fuel will land, is the right place."

"There are also concerns about pollution. LEAF speaks about dioxins and also particulates which can have very adverse effects on health."

"I will be urging BCBC to reject this application."

The meeting heard an address from Coun Martyn Jones of Llangynwyd Lower Community Council, who is also active with LEAF and Mark Weinzig who has researched all the supply problems.

Mr Jones said that the application was to run 52 lorries a day through the valley to bring the wood chip to the station – 104 return journeys.

But later, John Henry Looney, who is an environmental consultant employed by Morgan Credit, revealed that Network Rail has now stated that the work needed to upgrade the rail line and sidings will be completed before the new power station comes into commission.

This means that fuel will come to the site on a single train which will run at night, straight after the last passenger train which goes through at about 11.30pm.

The train will be unloaded in time to depart the valley before the first passenger train of the morning.

He added that talks had also taken place with the management of the Georgia Pacific Paper Mill next door about the possibility of using rail to take out their paper products which would see a substantial reduction on the number of lorries travelling through Coytrahen, Tondy and Aberkenfig.

Vests will help pupils 'Be Seen and Be Safe'



Optician Clare Pearce with children from the school council of Oldcastle Primary School, who are pictured receiving their hi-vis vests.

PUPILS from a school in Bridgend will be seen more clearly when out and about – thanks to a donation of high-visibility vests from a local optician.

To mark the clocks going back and the nights drawing in, Specsavers in Bridgend has donated luminous vests to Oldcastle Primary School as part of the school's 'Be Seen, Be Safe' initiative.

Optician Clare Pearce popped into the school to deliver the jackets and also gave the children a talk on the importance of

taking care of their eyes.

Store director, Anne Lowndes, said: "Several members of the team here at Specsavers are parents, so we became aware that some schools in the area were keen to use high-visibility vests for walking bus schemes and class trips."

Mrs Lacombe, head-teacher at Oldcastle Primary School, said: "We would like to thank Specsavers for the kind donation to our school."

"The vests will prove extremely useful for the children, as they often walk to local areas such as the church, and we will certainly use the vests when we take them on school trips, too."

Vocal workshop at the Tabernacl

TABERNACL Music Society will be holding a vocal workshop on Saturday, November 19 in Tabernacl Chapel, Derwen Road, Bridgend, from 10am-4pm.

The workshop will consist of activities aimed at improving choral singing technique. It will be led by Kate Woolveridge, an accomplished solo performer who has worked with Welsh National Opera, Glyndebourne and English National Opera, and has won numerous prestigious awards. She

also has extensive experience as a teacher and as leader of projects and workshops in singing.

Members of other choirs are invited to join the event. Singers attending will be required to bring a copy of Handel's Messiah, but all other music will be provided on the day. The cost of the workshop is £5.

Tea and coffee will be available during the day, but participants will need to make their own arrangements for lunch.

Contact the secretary on 07974 765578 for further details.

Maesteg Rotary youth leadership award...

MAESTEG Rotary Club has, for the past 12 years, sponsored local young people to attend a Youth Leadership Course at Dolygaer Outdoor Training Centre in Merthyr Tydfil, which is in close proximity to the peaks of the Brecon Beacons.

This year's candidate was Dewi Thomas, from Maesteg Comprehensive School.

He, along with other young people from various parts of the UK, spent a week at the centre.

They received training and subsequently participated in activities such as abseiling, caving, canoeing and orienteering. The course is designed to



take young people out of their comfort zones and to encourage them to take on responsibilities they had not previously encountered.

For Dewi, this involved instructing a group about caving techniques and then leading a short expedition.

He was very popular with his fellow trainees and he excelled in all aspects of the course.

Dewi reported that it was one of the most challenging experiences he had encountered to date – and that it would be beneficial to him when he eventually applied for entry to the Marines following his

university course.

His other interests include drama, the Air Training Corps and physical fitness activities that he hopes will help prepare him for a commission in the Royal Marines.

The photograph (above) shows him receiving his certificate from the president of the Maesteg Rotary Club, Rotarian Tallyn Harries.

Readers who may wish to learn more about Rotary are invited to contact Rotarian Viv Gage at viv.gage@talk21.com or by telephone on 01639 870442.

Quiz league report

ON Monday, October 17, Tyrisha Royals moved ahead of the rest, having won all three of their opening matches.

This week they won a close encounter with Mackworth Arms by 47 points to 44. Llangewydd Arms are unbeaten but have only played two and they came away from their match against Oldcastle 'A' with the three points, winning 55-46.

Tyrisha Nomads scored 54 away to Laleston Inn 'A' who made 40, and in the other match, Crown 'A' had a 47-42 win at home to Six Bells.

In Division 2 Coychurch Wanderers and Tondy Railway Club both have six from three.

Coychurch Wands beat Gamekeepers 50-32 and Tondy beat Pyle RFC 53-28. The other Pheasant side, the Poachers beat Crown 'B' 42-32 and Greenmeadow clearly outpointed Oldcastle 'B' 49-27.

A.Rudge (for Quiz League)

'Water changes big challenge' – says local MP

RECENTLY, 1.2 million Dwr Cymru household customers had notification that Dwr Cymru is taking ownership of any private sewers or lateral drains from householders.

Madeline Moon, MP for Bridgend, commented: "This is good news for householders in Wales and a big challenge for Dwr Cymru, who are asking all their customers to bear with them while they prioritise work within their budget."

"This transfer means a near doubling of Dwr Cymru's sewer network throughout Wales and an enormous backlog of work to repair sewers and drains which are in poor condition to bring

them up to an acceptable standard.

"Any problem areas known as 'hot spots' have been highlighted and in the Bridgend constituency the areas are Pyle Inn Way, Pyle; Heol Y Bardd, Bridgend; Trem y Mor, Brackla; Caw Brackla, Brackla and Coychurch Road, Bridgend."

"If you know of any other problem areas which are not already identified by Dwr Cymru, they would like to be made aware of them."

She added that not all of the sewer network is transferring to Dwr Cymru; the sewage pumping stations will transfer gradually up to October 1, 2016 and any drain that serves just one property will remain the responsibility of the property owner.

Tell us your news!

email

gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Who wants to build what and where in the borough?

Instrumentally Sound Music – Upper Offices, 37 Market Street, Bridgend – Fascia sign, plaque and banner.
Mrs M Bertorelli – 2A Oaklands Drive, Bridgend – Fell lime and horse chestnut and reduce crown of lime and oak tree.
Mr Roger Michael – Brynhaug, Heol yr Ysgol, Coity – Remove beech tree adjacent to Heol yr Ysgol.
Mr Brian Lewis – 11 Cefn Nant, Pencoed – Crown reduction and crown thinning of oak tree (T1) and ash tree (T2).
St Clare's School –

Newton, Porthcawl – Remove two linear groups of Leylandii trees on western and eastern sides of disused swimming pool.
St Clare's School – Newton, Porthcawl – Remove two black pine trees at northern end of rugby pitch and replace in more suitable locations.
Mr Howard Purnell – 36/37 Ger y Lyn, Porthcawl – Fell and remove two elder trees and thin out coppice of sycamore trees by 50 per cent.
Mr and Dr J and T Edmunds – 19 Danygraig Avenue, Porthcawl – Alterations and extension to

provide additional kitchen/living/bedroom areas.
Helen Jones – Flat 4A, The Esplanade, Porthcawl – Proposed balcony improvement – demolish existing and replace with original design.
Miss Caroline Jones – 5 Hutchwns Terrace, Porthcawl – Change of use of grassed area at rear to garden land.
Mr Anthony John – 23H Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr – New external ramp with handrail, handstanding and shower room adaptation.
Miss Sandra Fry – 5 High View, Bridgend – New

external access ramp and associated works.
Mrs Claire Thomas – 22 Brynteg Avenue, Bridgend – Replacement garage with capacity to house two vehicles and storage space in roof.
Mr C and Mrs H Platell – The Stables, Gilfach Orfydd, Dimbath Lane, Blackmill – Retain conversion and ext to former redundant agricultural building to tourist accommodation (re-sub of P/11/615/FUL).
E S E L – Abergarw Trading Estate, Brynmenyn – Installation of photovoltaic (PV) solar

panels on the roof of the building.
Mrs Irene Smith – Old joinery works, Tremains Road, Bridgend – Erect three two-bed self contained flats and 3 no. one-bed self contained flats (resubmission of P/10/607/FUL).
Mr Colin Boardman – 2 Clarke's Row, Nottage – Single storey extension with apex roof to replace existing garage to accommodate storage area.
Mr John Dixon – 19 West End Avenue, Nottage – Demolish existing dormers, construct new bedrooms and bathrooms with dormers.

Mr Paul Rose – 8 Tyn y Bettws Close, Bettws – New rear dormer and alterations.
Mr and Mrs I Rees – 41 Bridgend Road, Maesteg – Demolish existing rear extension and replace with single storey rear kitchen/dining and WC extension.
Inetec Limited – Unit 17, Village Farm Road, Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle – Create food and contaminated packing waste treatment facility with a 12.5 tonne thermal drying unit and alts.
Bridgend County Borough Council – Bettws Primary

School, Bettws Road, Bettws – Extension to Bettws 'Flying Start' nursery building and associated ground works.
Mrs C Thomas – 11 River Street, Ogmogre Vale – Single storey rear extension.
Mr P Griffin – 87 Maes Talcen, Brackla – Single storey side and rear extension.
Mr Greg Dix – 5-7 Bridgend Raod, Aberkenfig – Conversion of single first floor flat into two first floor flats.



First cut is the deepest as the First Minister joins the shovel detail at the ground-breaking ceremony.

FIRST MINISTER SEES START OF WORK ON 'WORLD CLASS' SCHOOL

FIRST Minister Carwyn Jones has attended a ground-breaking ceremony to mark the start of work on the new flagship community college in Bridgend County Borough.

Set to open in September 2013, the new facility for Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen will be purpose-built on the site of the Tondur campus to accommodate 1,570 pupils aged 11-18 and incorporate extensive community facilities for use both within and outside of school hours.

It is being funded by BCBC's schools modernisation programme and £26m awarded by the Welsh Government as part of its £144 million investment in schools

across Wales, which was announced in July 2010.

The facility will be one of the most environmentally friendly educational buildings in the country and a real beacon for the community, said Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council, Coun Mel Nott. "This is one of the most important projects the council has undertaken and will be a truly iconic, 21st Century school that is able to provide an outstanding teaching and learning experience."

"Although this ceremony marks the commencement of work by the contractor, it has taken a great deal of hard work from members, officers, governors, school staff and the design team to get the project to this point. I would like to recognise their continued dedication and support in delivering this project for the pupils and staff of Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen, the local community and residents of Bridgend County Borough."

The First Minister, who is also the AM for Bridgend, said: "The Welsh Government is committed to making sure that every child in Wales is educated in an environment that is expected for the 21st Century. The £26 million we have invested in this site will help provide state-of-the-art facilities for the next generation of pupils to learn and reach their full potential."

"I look forward to seeing the project come to fruition, on time and on budget. I wish all involved well and look forward to visiting the new school and particularly to seeing how the new environment will encourage and promote learning."

Choir excel at annual concert

BRIDGEND Male Choir gave their annual concert on Friday, October 21 in St Mary's RC Church, Bridgend.

As the audience arrived, they were greeted by a selection of music played by two young harpists from Ysgol Gyfun Cymraeg Llangynwyd, Niamh Reese and Lowri Foster-Davies.

This year's concert sparked, not only with the quality of the choir's performance, but also with the delightful singing of soprano, Llio Evans.

Llio is building an impressive reputation as a concert performer, as well as that of an operatic singer of true quality.

Her first set of the evening comprised *Aderyn Pur*, a Welsh favourite, and *Quel guardo il Cavaliere* from Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*, followed by the *Virgin of the Angel Host*, in which she was supported by the choir.

Her later items were Novello's *My Dearest* and the dramatic and demanding *Glitter and Be Gay* by Bernstein. Llio's performances were all top

RIGHT: Harpists Lowri Foster-Davies and Niamh Reese.



LEFT: The concert's professional music team. Front (left to right) - Llio Evans (soprano); Stephanie Bailey and Laura Smith (piano accompanists). Rear (left to right) - Scott Williams (organ accompanist); John Jenkins (musical director); David Hutchings (deputy musical director).

evening, the piano accompaniment was provided by Laura Smith, ably assisted by Stephanie Bailey.

While Laura has been with the choir for several years, this was Stephanie's first annual concert. They both combined in some wonderful four-hand accompaniment for *The Rhythm of Life* and *Hava Nagila*.

Laura then completely transfixed everyone with her virtuoso rendition of Chopin's *Ballade No 1* which she played without a copy.

An organ solo by Scott Williams, a regular supporting talent with the choir, was a further delight which added to a tremendously varied evening of music for all tastes.

LEILA O'HAGAN, Pen-y-Fai (Member of Mid-Glamorgan Mixed Choir)

Richter's impressive *Creation*.

Following the recent death of Victor Porter, father of choir president, Paul Porter, the choir sang *Gwahoddiaid* as a tribute.

Chorister Gwyn Williams sang the lovely *Serenade from The Fair Maid of Perth*.

The second half featured choir soloists Leon Evans in *Kalinka* and Paul Carter in *The Anthem* from the musical *Chess*.

The choir's final set was a tribute to the late, great accompanist and all-round musician, Bryan Davies, with his fantastic piano arrangements of *Comrades in Arms*, *Dashenka* and *Hava Nagila*. Bryan's daughters, Stan and Rhianon were in the audience to hear the choir perform these pieces.

Throughout the

NEWS FROM MAENDY YFC

Good day for stock judging, and watching the World Cup!



Stock judging day line-up.

IT'S been another busy few weeks for Maendy Young Farmers.

On October 6, a group of members attended the NFU harvest festival at Margam Abbey. It was a lovely service and good to see so many in attendance. After the service, everyone enjoyed delicious refreshments provided by Bridgend NFU ladies.

Next on the club calendar was the annual county stock judging day, held on Saturday,

October 15. This was a big day for Maendy YFC in particular, as it was the club's turn to host the competition.

It was a lovely sunny day and there was good participation from all clubs, with almost 100 members between the ages of 10 and 26 taking part.

Maendy YFC would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Reader family of Goldsland Farm, Wenvoe, for hosting the morning events of dairy and pig judging (along with screening the

Rugby World Cup semi-final between Wales and France); and similarly to the Harris family of Redland Farm, Bonvilston, for hosting the afternoon competitions of lamb and beef.

Overall, Maendy achieved joint first place, along with many individual successes in all age groups (results available on the club website).

A very big well done to all who took part and thank you to those who volunteered their time to help make the day a great success.

In the evening, a dance was held at Wenvoe village hall, which was very well supported and was enjoyed by all in attendance - a great finish to a great day!

On October 21, Maendy held their annual dinner and dance at the White Lion, Ystradowen. Members and supporters donned their gladrags for an evening of delicious food, followed by plenty of dancing (in particular the 'Lewys Lunge').

Presentation of club cups was made, a full list of recipients can be found on the club website - www.maendy.btck.co.uk/news

Coming up in the next few weeks is a club bonfire night on Tuesday, November 1, including a competition for the best Guy Fawkes; junior public speaking competitions on November 6 at the Pencoed Campus of Bridgend College; closely followed by a skittles night for members on November 8.

HANNAH LEWIS

Talent show will help local charity

THE Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, is hosting Bridgend's Got Talent this Saturday (October 29) - a charity event which showcases some of the borough's best young performers.

The event, now in its fourth year, is the brainchild of Dan O'Gorman, who produces, directs and is also a judge of the show.

The event also raises cash for the PAL Appeal (www.palappeal.org) - a local charity set up by Pam Latham-Anders.

She started the charity to raise funds for cancer services and, after her death in 2007, it continues to raise funds in her memory.

Dan O'Gorman told *The GEM*: "Acts have competed in four heats and two semi-finals so far."

"Now, 10 contestants will compete for the winning spot - chosen by the judges. The acts may range from dancers, singers, magicians, ventriloquists, or

bands - it is a talent competition."

The winner will receive a cash prize, the specially commissioned Bridgend's Got Talent trophy, and be the face of The PAL Appeal.

Dan said: "Several industry experts have been invited to the final to analyse the performances."

Besides Dan, there are three other judges.

• Penny Wickendam, who runs Dance School Cymru with her husband Dave - himself an accomplished dancer and performer, having performed in the West End, most recently in the title role in *Buddy*.

• Andrew Jones, who specialises in the music of Sinatra, James Dean and Sammy Davis Jr.

• Rhianon Owen, a soprano and the winner of the 2009 Bridgend's Got Talent.

The show starts at 7pm, and tickets are available from the Grand Pavilion box office on 01656 815995.

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Pupils sample surfing thrills at Porthcawl

COASTAL Connections, the beach-based project at Ashgrove School, recently took pupils surfing at Rest Bay Beach, Porthcawl.

The pupils explored the equipment, learning about beach and water safety and attempting to ride the rollers of the Bristol Channel.

Kerry Baker, who leads Coastal Connections, said: "The pupils had an amazing time, the thrill of catching a wave and being pushed into shore left the whole group feeling excited, enthused and empowered."

"We believe surfing on a regular basis will offer the pupils confidence, self-esteem and a sense of well-being."

The pupils visit Rest Bay in Porthcawl on a regular basis, taking the curriculum to the beach.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Baden Powell award

MANY congratulations to 15-year-old Anna Underhill, from Kenfig Hill, on winning the Baden Powell Award, the highest to be gained in the Girl Guide movement.

After two years of dividing her time between school and the hard work required in achieving this prestigious award, Anna, who is in the 1st Kenfig Hill Guides, was presented with it last Thursday evening, by the County Commissioner for the Girl Guides, Wendy Hinton, at the Kenfig Hill Scouts Hall.

In front of her proud family, Division Commissioner for Llynfi, Caroline Little, her Group Leader, Sarah Madden, fellow Guides, special guests, borough Coun Clive James, community councillors Paula James and Gina Hooper and parents of the Guides, Anna was also presented with an award from the community to mark her achievement, by Kay John, chair of Pyle Community Council.

Coun Clive James congratulated Anna, saying how proud he was of her and of the work done by the Guides, Rainbows, Beavers and Scouts in the village, and that he would always give them his full support.

Anna, the first Guide from the 1st Kenfig Hill Guides for 10 years to gain the Baden Powell award, thanked her group leader, fellow guides, family and friends for helping her

achieve it.

The evening ended in great fashion with the Guides not only entertaining us with their superb singing, but also getting everyone to join in.

For children looking for something different there are vacancies for 5-7-year-old children in the Beavers and 7-10 years old in the Cubs.

Also required is a leader for the Beavers.

For more details, call into the Kenfig Hill Scout Hall, Croft Coch Road, Kenfig Hill on a Thursday evening, or ring Julie on 07846 679152.

Choir visitor
THE Kenfig Hill & District Male Voice Choir regularly welcomes visitors to their rehearsals, which are held in the Choral Suite at the Green Acre, North Cornelly on Mondays and Thursdays.

Last week, they were pleased to welcome 89-year-old Harry McLeish from Liverpool, who is currently on holiday at the Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court in Porthcawl and had heard the choir in a concert given at the All Saints Church the previous weekend.

It was soon obvious that Harry, who is confined to a wheelchair due to arthritis in his knees, was more than a casual onlooker; with his dry Liverpoolian humour he soon revealed that he had sung with the Cammell Laird Male Voice Choir, where he had worked for 45 years.

Harry, who is a writer, artist, broadcaster and musician, was



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by Richard Sims

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Visiting chorister Harry McLeish.

soon engrossed in the rehearsal – so much so that he asked the choir's musical director if it would be possible to achieve an ambition by conducting the choir.

It was agreed, and at the end of the rehearsal, Phil Juliff, the choir's musical director, presented Harry with a framed photograph of the choir.

KPC Youth
KPC Youth is organising a charity evening at Ye Old Wine House, or better known locally as 'The Tap' in Pyle on November 6 at 6pm.

Tickets, which are

limited, and must be bought in advance from the centre, are £10 to include curry and gateau. Following the meal, there will be an evening of karaoke entertainment.

KPC Youth is located next to Pil Primary School, off Pyle Inn Way, Pyle or you can ring 01656 749219/745399.

Wellbeing centre

THE activities being held by the Mental Health Matters, Wales on November 2 in the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road: Writing with Val – expressive and fun from 1pm-4.30 pm; reading with John from 3pm-4pm; and a Wellbeing meeting during the afternoon.

There is also a social afternoon from 1pm-5pm when everyone is welcome.

Parish of Kenfig Hill
MEMBERS of the church will be out this Saturday collecting for the 'Missions to Seafarers' at the Cop in Pyle.

They are looking for

Bridgend Police.

"To round off the week, victims were revisited and reassurance provided. These individuals were recognised for their courage in contacting us to report this crime and therefore supporting Bridgend Police in working hard to prevent further victims.

"The week was a huge success and this is reflected positively in the number of reported incidents of rogue traders over the last 12 months, which remains at an all time low. Residents are illustrating more confidence in saying NO to doorstep crime."

Crime Prevention advice is available by contacting your local PCSO, or visit www.our-bobby.co.uk



PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

Girls Guides entertaining after awards were presented.



The 1st Kenfig Hill Girl Guides Group Leader, Sarah Madden, the chair of Pyle Community Council, Kay John and Anna Underhill receiving the Community Award.



Sarah Madden with the Girl Guides County Commissioner, Wendy Hinton and the Baden Powell award winner, Anna Underhill.

anyone with a spare hour or two to help pupil of the collection. All Soul's Day is on November 2 when there will be a Eucharist in Theo's at 10am and a Requiem at St Theodore's Church at 7pm.

Mynydd Cynffig Junior School

MANY congratulations to the following pupils who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week:

Kelsey William – class 1, Matthew Briggs – class 2, Grace Griffiths – class 3, Joseph Hardwicke – class 4, Taryn Matthews – class 5, Louie Flower – class 6 and Bradley Jenkins from class 7. The headteacher's award went to Connor Farnham.

Pupil achievements –

Congratulations to Anna Underhill, a former pupil of the school, who has achieved an outstanding honour from the Girl Guides Organisation.

On October 19, she was presented with the Baden Powell Award. Congratulations also go to Kyle Williams of class 7 who achieved the Dragon Cricket award during the summer for his continued progress in the sport.

Football Tournament – On October 19, the school football team played Nottage Primary School in a Cup match. This was the first of three matches in their group stage to qualify for the quarter-finals.

In what proved to be an exciting game, the school scored first through a cracking goal from Ben Evans, who shot from distance to beat the goalkeeper.

Another goal followed, scored by

Bradley Jenkins, putting the school in the lead by two goals. Following this there was some confusion in defence which led to an own goal by Ben Evans, which gave Nottage some hope.

Late on in the game, Nottage caught the school defence out of position and scored an equaliser.

Philip Burnell then showed some goalkeeping skills, saving from a one on one situation to keep the team in the game.

In the end, a 2-2 draw was a fair result and the school will now go on to play Nantyffyllon and Coity in their group.

Inter-school rugby matches – On October 14, the school played in

the Keith Grice 10-a-side tournament in Porthcawl. The team produced an excellent performance, winning their three group games against Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sger, Ysgol Bro Ogwr and St Mary's to reach the semi-final.

The semi-final against Trelawley was a close and exciting match in which Connor Morgan scored a try, converted by Luke Dingle, but unfortunately they lost the game 14-7.

Sincere apologies to Callum Lewis, who scored in the game against Brynecethin last week, which was inadvertently left out of the match report, in a game that ended with a 34-10 win for the school.

Say NO to stop doorstep crime!

– POLICE URGE LOCAL RESIDENTS

OCTOBER 17 marked the start of Rogue Trader Week 2011, which is designed to raise public awareness of doorstep crime and increase reassurance, to reduce the fear of crime.

A police spokesman said that there were considerable links between certain rogue traders, builders, uPVC fitters, tarmacadam layers and gardeners, who look for business on the doorstep.

He said: "This year, a number of small operations were implemented to continue the drive to raise public awareness of doorstep crime.

"These included a joint operation between Trading Standards and Pencoed Neighbourhood Policing Team, who were

out checking charity bag collectors and the licences of waste carriers.

"No offences were found, with all individuals operating with the required guidelines and legislation.

"Further positive work was carried out with the local Neighbourhood Policing Team, again at Pencoed.

Residents were approached in a number of streets where there were recent reports of rogue traders in the area. They were praised for their diligence in contacting us promptly to allow local officers to respond promptly.

"Thankfully, on this occasion no one became a victim of crime and local residents have been encouraged to continue reporting their concerns around rogue traders to

AM's call for enterprise zone to boost business

SOUTH Wales West regional AM, Suzy Davies, has repeated calls for an information and communications technology and creative industries enterprise zone to be established in the region.

In questions to the Business Minister, the Welsh Conservative regional AM again criticised the lack of an enterprise zone in the South Wales West area and called on the Minister to reconsider.

"When the Minister unveiled her much-delayed policy on enterprise zones, I was hugely disappointed that South Wales West had been neglected. Our region has a huge number of busi-

nesses in the ICT sector and the creative industries. It is clear that an ICT and creative industries enterprise zone would be a perfect fit," she said.

"I do not accept the Minister's assertion that we could do this with a virtual enterprise zone.

"Such a zone would not meet the potential of the digital explosion and deny us the potential innovations that clustering businesses brings.

"The Welsh Labour Government has failed to improve the economy in the region, despite billions of pounds of EU funding. It's time to let business and the voluntary sector take the lead.

"An enterprise zone in the region would be a huge boost and a platform for improving the local economy."

Panto fundraiser

THE enthusiastic members of the Llantwit Major Pantomime Society are treading the boards once again – and their 34th pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*, looks set to be the best yet!

To raise much-needed funds for this production, the society is holding a Halloween coffee morning, on Saturday, October 29 from 10am – 12 noon at the Llantwit Major.

A spokesman said: "It's a great place to start your Halloween week-

end – with coffee, cakes, tombola and other stalls, come and have a chat to both cast and crew – as always with the pantomime society, you never quite know what will happen!"

Graham Beckwith, chairman of the Llantwit Major Pantomime Society (who also wrote the script for this year's panto) commented: "Both our brilliant junior and senior cast are enjoying working with director Anthony Denatle and their hard work – and that of the fantastic backstage crew – are bringing the set and script to life!"

AS NUMBERS OF NEEDY DOUBLE...

AMs praise work of Bridgend Food Bank volunteers

THE rise in the number of food banks being set up across the country, has prompted two regional Assembly members to visit the one in Bridgend.

Suzy Davies and Byron Davies, who are Welsh Conservative AMs for South Wales West, spoke to staff at the food bank in Nolton Street, where they were given an insight into how it operates.

As a result of this visit, Suzy Davies tackled Iain Duncan Smith, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, at the recent Conservative conference.

She said: "I had the chance to speak to Mr Duncan Smith about the growth in the take-up of food parcels in Bridgend and nationally.

"Bridgend has seen demand double over the past year and of those seeking help, 36 per cent are there because there has been a delay in the payment of their benefits. That figure has remained a constant throughout.

"He told me that one factor in the growth of the numbers of people now going to food banks is because the new government in Westminster has permitted the food banks to advertise in job centres, where the previous government had banned it.

"As a result, more people than ever are aware of their existence.

"He also said that benefit delays should reduce as the new universal credit is rolled



Suzy Davies and Byron Davies are pictured at the Bridgend Food Bank.

out. Mrs Davies also raised the issue of the surge in numbers in Bridgend and elsewhere needing help during school holidays, when children are not getting free school meals.

She went on: "He told me that they are looking at providing extra financial help to families during the school holidays to compensate for the loss of school meals.

"This may reduce this surge that the Bridgend food bank has told us about.

"This is a completely new initiative which has not yet been formally announced."

Byron Davies has also been calling for changes in the wake of the Bridgend visit.

He said: "They have a very impressive operation there. I think that the work being done by volunteers is terrific.

"They are providing a lifeline to those who find themselves temporarily in crisis of one sort or another.

"I would urge people to support its work by either making a donation of cash or food.

"Hopefully, the numbers needing help will diminish as measures being taken by the government kick in, but I assume that there will always be a need for this safety net to help people when they hit an unexpected crisis in their lives.

"It is reassuring to hear that most people only need one voucher – enough food to tide them over for three days.

"We must try and ensure that these delays

are eradicated as far as possible so that people get the money they are entitled to immediately, and I am relieved that this is being given at the highest quarter in Whitehall."

During their visit, the two AMs were given a history of the food bank in Bridgend, which was set up almost two years ago by Christians in the town.

All of the food banks in the UK are part of a network set up by the Trussell Trust, which began in Salisbury when a group of church members decided to help feed homeless people in the city.

There are now more than 100 across the country, but more are opening every week. Bridgend was only the second one in Wales and Roy Harris, treasurer and trustee, explained that in their first year they fed 1,000 people, but this has doubled in the past year.

He said: "People come to us because of a temporary crisis like losing their jobs and waiting for their first payment of benefits, sudden family breakdown or domestic violence where a mother and children have fled their home."

The food bank only accepts referrals – people cannot walk in off the street.

He emphasised: "We work through social services, through doctors, health visitors and other similar professionals who are given vouchers which they issue to cases that they encounter.

KESTEL TAKES WING

The Kestrel art group at Pencoed was formed by about 20 local residents in April, to meet to draw and paint together once a week.

They have now moved to a new venue in the sports pavilion off Woodland Avenue, Pencoed, and the club is open from 6.30pm-9.30pm every Thursday, having spent the last year meeting in a local church hall.

This is a relaxed, happy group of people of various ages and skills, from beginners up to amateur artists, using all types of art materials.

They welcome new members. Further advice from Keith on 01656 861784 or 07714 246321.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Leaving choir

MEMBERS of the Maesteg children's choir were sorry to hear that Mr Ryan Wood, their accompanist for 17 years, will be leaving next January. Everyone wishes him every success in the future.

The choir, which was formed in 1985 by its present musical director Enid-Sian Hughes, is now looking for a versatile accompanist, of a high standard.

The choir rehearses at Plasnewydd Primary School, Maesteg, on Saturday mornings between 10.am and 12.noon.

Anyone interested should telephone Enid-Sian Hughes on 01656 732385, or e-mail enid-sian@happypnote.co.uk.

Ogmore Vale Primary School

Mrs J Morgan, the headteacher, is hoping that a Parent Teachers Association can be formed at the school.

Mrs J Sheppard will be holding a meeting in the staff room on November 9 at 3.15pm, when it is hoped parents will attend.

Pen-y-fai WI

Mrs Jean Griffiths, the president welcomed members to the recent annual general meeting and wished all those whose birthday was in that month a happy birthday.

There was a special mention for Nan Gould, who was at the meeting, on her 90th birthday.

Chris Davies confirmed that 14 members will take part in the Christmas carol concert on December 5 at the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea.

It was agreed that members who take part in the book reading and craft lessons in Tondy Methodist Church on Fridays will hold a craft fair at the church tomorrow, October 28, to which everyone is welcome.

Gloria Gore then gave an account of events at the recent council meeting, when Toyah Wilcox had been a guest.

Announcements were made on candidates willing to stand for the committee next year. There were three proposals for candidates for the position of president – Gloria Gore, Angela Smith and Jean Griffiths (the first two candidates asked for their names to be withdrawn).

All other members of the committee agreed to serve for another term on next year's committee.

Gloria Gore informed the meeting that the branch now consisted of 57 members. Judith Lucas, the WI Federation advisor, congratulated members on the varied events they had taken part in over the last 12 months.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of THE GEM: If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



She then gave a brief history of the WI since formation in 1915: It now has 208,000 members in 7,000 branches and celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2005.

The next meeting will take place in the Church of England primary school hall, Pen-y-fai on November 21, at 7.30pm, to which new members and visitors will be welcome.

What goes bump...

MEMBERS of South and West Wales

Wildlife Trust will be holding a 'What goes bump in the night' event at Parc Slip nature reserve visitor centre, Tondy, on October 31.

There will be Halloween fun for all the family, starting off at 5pm, with the wicked witch reading a spooky story to children aged between 4 and 10.

At 6pm, everyone will take part in a scary walk around the reserve, where they will find out what goes bump in the night at Parc Slip!

It is hoped that most will come prepared in fancy dress. The cost will be £2 per child. Places can be booked in advance on 01656 724100.

Standing down

Martin Griffiths, has thanked two long serving members of Tynrhod school PTF, Elaine Crowle and Amelia Davies, for their hard work and commitment as chairperson and treasurer.

Both are standing down, but intend to stay on as committee members and support the new officials.

He welcomed two new members – Ceri Cronin as chairperson and Laura Lewis as treasurer.

Tondu primary

Mrs Susan Pilsher, the headteacher, is concerned that Bridgend CBC have been unsuccessful in finding someone to take on the role of school crossing patrol at the bottom of Meadow Street.

She is hoping that a parent or grandparent will be willing to take over. (Contact Simon Ladbroke of Bridgend CBC on 01656 642529 or e-mail on simon.ladbroke@bridgend.gov.uk)

The school is asking pupils to talk to their parents about the charity Operation Christmas Child. It is hoped items will be collected in shoeboxes for needy

children in other countries.

The boxes will need to be delivered to the school by November 4.

Barn dance

It has been decided to hold a harvest barn dance at Betws Primary School, at the centre point where local parishes meet.

There will be a professional caller and music; entry free by ticket only, but bring a plate of finger food to the school hall on November 4 between 7pm and 10.30pm.

Tickets can be obtained from the church or school, or by telephoning 01656 720274.

Congratulations

Members of St Tyfodwg's church, have congratulated the children of two members, Stephanie and Martin Bowen.

Daughter Jessica recently achieved nine GCSEs and is now in the sixth form at Archbishop McGrath Comprehensive School, Brackla.

Her brother David, the server at Saint Tyfodwg's, has obtained his green belt at judo and was also successful in a competition when he won all his bouts, and a gold medal, and is now the under 60 kilogramme Welsh Champion. Well done to them both.

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Rotary Club The Rotary club of Maesteg will organise the fireworks display at Maesteg rugby club on November 5, carrying on the previous good work of the Round Table.

The event will start at 7.30pm, gates opening at 6.30 pm and the cost of admission will be £6 for adults and £3 for children with a family ticket of two adults and two children costing £15. All money raised by Rotary is given to local and international

charities.

This is the first year that the Rotary club have organised the event and they are hoping that it will continue to have the support that was enjoyed previously.

Entertainment by a DJ will start at 6.30 pm and refreshments will be available on the night.

Côr Meibion Cwm Garw

The Festival of One Thousand Voices in March 2012 provides a rare opportunity for aspiring choristers to learn many of the popular songs in the Welsh male choir repertoire.

It also provides the chance to join in the massed choirs' rehearsal at the Neath Sports Centre on October 30, where they will sing alongside fellow Garw choristers and foremost choirs in Wales.

The rehearsal is to be conducted by the celebrated Dr. Alwyn Humphries MBE, former conductor of the world-renowned Morriston Orpheus Male Choir.

New and aspiring choristers are welcome to come along and enjoy weekly practices on Mondays and/or Wednesdays in the Pontycymer RFC Clubhouse at 7pm, where great emphasis is now on the programme for the 2012 Festival – no voice test, no audition, no worries – just come in and join in.

The choir will be taking part in the Festival of Massed Male Voice choirs in St. David's Hall, Cardiff on November 19.

The concert is in aid of the British Heart Foundation and the programme will consist of traditional Welsh male choir music sung with fervour and finesse by 500 choristers in perfect four-part harmony.

The (tractor) boys are back in town

LOCAL farmers are heading out this weekend – on a charity tractor run.

The run, organised by the 'Tractor Boys of Aberthin' takes place on Sunday, October 30, and starts from the farm yard of Mr David Rees, near Aberbaiden (nearest post code CF32 0BT) at 10am.

Funds raised on the day will be shared between Y Bwthyn at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, and the Macmillan team based at Y Bwthyn, in memory of June Edwards, the mother of Sian Williams (also known as 'Pink Lady').

Organiser Martyn Huish said: "The run will go from Aberbaiden to Porthcawl. The entrance fee is £10, and drivers should just turn up on the day."

Bridgend Bridge results

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent evenings are:

October 19 (teams event) – 1st, Joan Jenkins, Tim Barsby, Mike Best and Liam Sheridan; 2nd, Mary Moore, John Beard, Julian Pottage and Robert Charlesworth; 3rd, Alan Grant, Sheila Storer, Norma and David Newman.

October 21 – 1st, Ann Fox and Dave Barwood; 2nd, Mary Moore and Di Jones; 3rd, Bill Turner and Ray Smith.

In addition to regular club nights on Wednesday and Friday at 7pm at Nolton Church Hall, there are lessons for beginners on Wednesday (2.30pm) and improvers on Fridays (at 7.30pm).

Not just a game, sport can inspire and aid economy

IT'S great to see the way in which Welsh sport is back in the spotlight. I know that the outcome of the 2011 Rugby World Cup has been something of a bitter pill to swallow, but wasn't it wonderful to see people from all parts of the United Kingdom coming together to support the Welsh team?

Even newspaper columnists commented on the number of celebrities who were suddenly keen to reveal Welsh grandmothers, fond memories of holidays in Porthcawl, or other strong links to all things Cymru!

Regional rugby has received a boost with the return of the Ospreys to the Brewery Field. Their recent match against Heineken Cup finalists Northampton Saints was superb, and the people of Bridgend County Borough turned out to witness some first-class sporting action.

In addition to its ability to bring people together and unify communities, the benefits of sport move beyond helping us to feel good.

Physical prowess can build confidence and esteem or help with issues such as social exclusion, and leading an active lifestyle can cut down on health care costs.

Not only will the return of the Ospreys attract more people into the county borough and increase local

FOLLOW THE LEADER



by **MEL NOTT**
Leader of the
Bridgend County
Borough Council

trade, it will help put the area back on the national and international rugby stage.

The Ospreys were on hand to demonstrate this to potential investors at an event designed to encourage more businesses to relocate or expand into the county borough, and as recently as last week, they lent their support to a follow-up, showcasing the advantages of having first class local

sport.

But as well as being good for the economy, sport is also inspirational, and on October 31, the doors will open on a fantastic new exhibit at Bridgend Recreation Centre called 'Following The Flame'.

With less than a year to go before the 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics, the exhibition will explore Wales' proud sporting heritage and mark the achievements of key Welsh athletes such as world triathlon champion Helen Jenkins, javelin world record holder Nathan Stephens and double gold-winning Paralympian cyclist Simon Richardson.

Supported by Sport Wales, 'Following The Flame' is designed to inspire and motivate people to achieve future sporting success.

By January next year, more than 3,000 local schoolchildren will have visited the exhibition, which includes memorabilia – such as Tanni Grey-Thompson's wheelchair and the Olympic torch carried by Muhammad Ali in Atlanta. You can call Bridgend Recreation Centre on 01656 815400 for more details and opening times.

This free exhibition is truly worth visiting, and I hope you will come along and help support and celebrate all that Wales, and Bridgend county borough, has achieved.

Porthcawl First in call for an independent town council

PORTHCWL FIRST is a new pressure group, formed earlier this year, to provide a voice for local people who want to see our town develop into a prosperous, vibrant and forward-looking community, where local residents and businesses can enjoy our heritage and natural amenities.

Porthcawl First evolved from a Facebook campaign established in summer 2010, which called for an open and transparent approach to Regeneration in Porthcawl.

We have taken that campaign as a start point, and broadened its objectives to encompass the views of ordinary people in Porthcawl.

We want to see an Independent Town Council where councillors act in the best interests of the town, freely and independently from any party political agenda. We want local people to be able to determine local policies for local councillors to implement.

We know from listening to local people, that there are concerns about:

- The unchecked and continual decline of our once great town, the declining infrastructure, derelict buildings, wasted land and gradual decay.

- Our Regeneration (our lack of it), the proposed retail, leisure and housing developments.

- The lack of local leisure facilities.

- Facilities for young people.

- Lack of proper overnight parking and hotel facilities for visitors.

- Litter, dog fouling and the general state of our streets and beaches.

- Illegal/inconsiderate parking.

We want to work with other local groups that share our broader aims. We want to work with elected councillors at town and borough level

ART SOCIETY COWBRIDGE Art Society will meet on Thursday, November 3 at 7pm in the Old Hall, High Street, when Cardiff artist Mr Howard Jones will give a pen and wash demonstration of a Welsh atmospheric scene.

Visitors are very welcome to attend.

For further details of the society, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com

to promote our aims. We have the support of two town councillors (details below), and are confident that other existing councillors will want to work with us.

We will be writing to all Porthcawl town and borough councillors asking them to support us, putting political ideology to one side, and work together for a better Porthcawl. Why would they not want to support us?

Over the coming months, we will be talking to local people, many of whom have told us they are fed up with having their views ignored, and annoyed when party politics seems to prevent things being done that are in the best interests of

local people and the town.

We will support Independent candidates in next May's town and borough elections, and will also support other candidates who publically demonstrate commitment to our aims, so that together we can build a better Porthcawl.

Porthcawl First is not a political party, charity or a business. It is an umbrella organisation, formed to encourage people to work together, free from political bias, and for the good of Porthcawl. We have some support from local business, and are confident of securing sponsors in the months ahead.

E JOHN HOWLEY
(Administrator)

'A time to remember my father's sacrifice'

I LIVE in Wick, and came here to this small village to have a quality of life denied to us in the city of Cardiff – to find a small pocket of peace in an ever-changing world, to provide a place for my aged father to live out his last days.

The sea and the coastline here reminded him of his youth in Norway. We would sit on Nash Point and I would watch as he longed for his youth and his sailor days.

Now he is lost to us, lost at the age of 90 – a good age and a good life, and he was with us till his time of passing.

I write now as it is my time of remembrance. He loved the turning of the year, the time from summer to autumn and the scents of winter coming.

My father's youth was of war and courage. What was asked of him then will never be asked of me here – what he, and others like him, did to enable us to have this peace here in Wick.

He sailed as a gunner in the dark and dreadful cold North Sea, taking

supplies back to besieged Norway. Many a time he was in the sea itself as the ship went down and others drowned, but my father survived, to be awarded medals of honour and to be with us till his end.

A mostly silent man, with few words, he led by example, but the few words remain:

Firstly, walk right line here reminded him of his youth in Norway. We would sit on Nash Point and I would watch as he longed for his youth and his sailor days.

A small Mass will be held, and a tree planted as I consider his life and what I can still learn from his being in this world, the things he gave up to make us safe and to be able to live in liberty.

The planting of the Norwegian maple tree in Monks Wood will enable my son and I to have somewhere to visit, to plant flowers and give remembrance.

His ashes I scattered to the winds and the sea, as he so wished.

SOLVEIG JORGENSEN

YOU CAN NOW READ YOUR BRIDGEND & PORTHCWL GEM ONLINE!

Just visit www.bridgend-today.co.uk and register for free.

We welcome your news, reports and other items of interest - email: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Holly's fundraising evening for research

REPORT by **PHILIP IRWIN**

A CHARITY night is being held in Bridgend to raise funds for research into brain tumours – to help a 15-year-old girl who has an inoperable brain tumour.

It was two years ago that Holly Timbrell was given the diagnosis that devastated her family, and her mother Karen is determined to raise as much cash as she can to try and speed up research into a relatively "unfashionable" area.

Karen told The GEM about how the family had found itself caught up in a nightmare.

She said: "It started more than two years ago, when Holly started getting severe headaches."

"She went for tests and, eventually, the diagnosis was confirmed. The news was devastating."

Holly had to endure a series of operations, a bitter irony, considering that doctors felt from the start that it was so deep that it would be inoperable.

Karen said: "Holly has had four operations and a biopsy, and she will have to go in again soon for another procedure."

"For the moment, she is relatively well and getting on with her life, but her life hangs in the balance daily."

Karen feels that brain tumours are not a "popular" cancer, and despite the tragic consequences and increasing figures, the research is not keeping pace with other cancers.

She said: "There are no superstars promoting awareness or big campaigns to raise money, nor is government funding into research very forthcoming."

"This is why it is down to people like myself to try to raise awareness and money, so that patients and their carers can at least have some hope for the future."

"If over the next 10 years, enough money is raised, they may be able to find a cure for my daughter before it does any further damage."

Holly and her mother live in Cardiff, but have strong Bridgend connections. Karen is a former pupil at Brynteg Comprehensive School.

She said: "I have organised an ABBA tribute night in Bridgend, at the Omore Constituency Labour Party Club, Bryntirion, on November 11, with a great raft too!"

"I hope people will come along and help raise funds for this vital research."

CHEESE AND WINE BOOST AN APPEAL



Picture by **MARTIN THOMAS**

PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER AT WICK

THIS is a letter of thanks to community councillors Mr and Mrs Phil Thomas here in Wick, Mr Ken Evans of Vale Highways and two of his team, Joanne Dovey and Peter Coughlan, for working together to improve access for all.

The dropped kerbs so needed in this village will make life much easier for those with prams and buggies, those walking with aids and sticks, and for those of us in wheelchairs.

Sometimes, small changes in the environment make a big change in a life.

Recently, Joanne from Highways came out and walked the route to the village green with myself, my son Seth and a carer pushing the

wheelchair.

We were met by the two community councillors.

To cut a long story short, Highways and three residents with disabilities (Mr Richard Lewis, Mr Diamond and myself) in collaboration with the community council, have now made the pathways a little safer. It is surprising what can be done when we all work together as a village.

Before now, it was a daily difficulty to even go to the village shop and Post Office. We had to go on the busy main road in wheelchairs to get to the crossing.

On a brighter note, I have heard that the shop is to be opening again soon and I hope that the new owners will consider disabled access for villagers in their new plans.

Sol Jorgensen, Wick

A NEWTON Nottage Porthcawl Parish social group organised a cheese and wine evening at All Saints' Church Hall on Saturday, October 22 attended by the deputy Mayor, Mrs Alana Davies, and the president of the Rotary Club, Mr Robert Snell.

The proceeds will go to Ty Elis Counselling Service, which covers the whole of the Bridgend borough area and beyond, and is currently appealing to various borough authorities, organisations, churches and individuals for donations, in order that the valuable service provided may continue.

The chairman of Ty Elis, Dr David Parry, thanked all those who had already responded so generously to the appeal and those who had made the event possible.

WELSH GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITY... 'DISABLED PEOPLE MUST BE SUPPORTED IN WALES'

WHEN I spoke at the annual conference of the organisation 'Disability Wales', I knew I would learn a great deal about the adverse impact of the changes and cuts in welfare benefits, and the numbers of people who would be affected in Wales.

I was right, the figures speak for themselves – around 23 per cent of the population of Wales has some form of disability.

A quarter of a million people claim the Disability Living Allowance; 10 per cent of our working age population receive Incapacity Benefit/Employment Support Allowance and 66,000 people receive home community care services.

In addition, over 2,000 receive the Independent Living fund.

Last year, the Chancellor announced unparalleled cuts to public spending in his Budget statements affecting the grant to the Welsh Government but also to welfare benefits.

He announced over £14bn worth of cuts to

the welfare benefits budget, which is having a major impact on disabled people.

On behalf of the Welsh Government, our Minister for Social Services, Gwenda Thomas AM, has met with the UK Government Minister for Disabled People, to raise our concerns about the impact of the cuts in disability benefits; and we are represented on a cross-government group to address employment issues for disabled people.

We are also supporting research into the link between welfare benefits and social care in Wales and the likely impact of any changes.

PROTECTION

We know we have to reduce our budgets, but it is a question of priorities and we have always said that we would seek to protect vulnerable people and support the economic recovery.

That is why it is important to keep our concessionary fares for disabled people and their companions and protect our social services funding for local authorities.

At the conference last week, I spoke about our concerns with the pace and scale of changes to the benefits system and the impact this will have on disabled people and the increased pressure on

GUEST COLUMN



by
JANE HUTT AM
(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

local services.

It is clear that the UK Government expects local authorities to meet any shortfall in provisions caused by the changes, and there is no sign of any additional funding to help Wales meet this shortfall.

This could have a major impact on our policies to help disabled people to live independently.

Every local authority is having to make savings and it is a challenge to do this while protecting services.

A recent report, sponsored by SCOPE, looked at the changes and fortunately came to the conclusion that Welsh councils were not experiencing such big changes as those in England, because the Welsh Government chose to

protect local government services as far as we could.

Overall, the SCOPE report found that the picture in Wales is more stable than in England and the new charging guidelines for care, which we introduced last year with extra funding, has been a stabilising influence and are more generous than in England.

At the conference, I was pleased to announce that we are developing a framework for action on independent living for disabled people.

This will be developed across the whole Welsh Government, covering housing, health, care, leisure and all aspects of life.

CONSULTING

Alongside this we are consulting on our new public sector duties under the Equality Act 2010, which all public bodies must follow.

The Welsh Government website has background information on these new duties and there is a questionnaire for people to answer, so that they can identify the barriers they face and call on the Government to take action to address them.

These duties will be all the more important as the harsh reality of the welfare benefit cuts hit home for many people,

as I have found in my recent surgeries, with people coming to tell me how it has affected them.

Over 1,000 people marched through Cardiff last Saturday, as part of the 'Hardest Hit' rallies which took place across the UK to raise awareness of the cuts to benefits affecting disabled people, amidst warnings from disabled groups that there will be further benefit cuts.

Disabled people want to live independently.

they want to work if they can, live healthily, make a contribution and get involved in community activities, but they need financial support, adapted housing and access to transport.

Much of this is threatened by the welfare benefit changes, which are deep and extensive.

I hope we can help mitigate against these in our policies and practice with the funding and levers we have got in the Welsh Government.

We welcome your news, reports and other items:
gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk



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(with APEC Executive Travel Ltd)

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My dad surrounded himself with people he could trust. I wasn't going to change that for anything, especially for his funeral.



Phoenix rise up!



Sam Humphrey breaks for the try line.

Pencoed Phoenix were in action on the weekend against Croesyceiliog, and were made to work hard by their opponents. The full match report is on page 48, but as Julie Hancock's photos show, it was tough encounter for the Phoenix.



Hannah Brunskill on the run.



Stef Niblett evades a Croesyceiliog tackler.

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COUNCILLORS WIN PRAISE AS...

Fracking battle is won – at least for the moment!

COUNCILLORS on a Vale Council planning committee were praised last week by 'anti-fracking' campaigners, after unanimously throwing out an application to test drill for shale gas.

However, the company making the application, Coastal Oil and Gas, made it clear that an appeal would be lodged, arguing that test drilling did not involve any of the techniques used in fracking.

Controversy surrounds the process of hydraulic fracturing, better known now as fracking, because sand, water and some chemicals are pumped into fissures in shale beds hundreds of metres below ground.

Campaigners argue that there is a risk of contamination in ground water. They also say that

the process of setting up drilling rigs to commercially extract shale gas will badly disrupt the Vale.

Vale AM Jane Hutt welcomed the decision to reject the test drilling application in Llandow.

She said: "I have called for a moratorium on gas shale drilling and extraction and objected to this application to the Vale Council. I welcome the Vale Council's planning committee's decision to reject this application in Llandow."

Andy Chyba of the Bridgend Green Party said: "This represents a total vindication of the stance we have taken from the outset of this campaign back in January."

"It also represents a triumph for people power, with the people of Llandow and the Vale being prepared to wrestle with the issues in order to understand them, and

by **PHILIP IRWIN**

then go out and comprehensively win the arguments calmly, rationally and on merit.

"Louise Evans and the whole 'Vale Says No!' team have achieved far more than any political party could achieve in terms of raising awareness of the issues."

"I would also like to acknowledge the very brave decision taken by the planning committee this evening."

"It was made up of 10 Conservatives, five Labour, two Plaid Cymru and two Independents and to obtain a unanimous verdict, is a stunning result that ought to reverberate around the nation."

"It is a sensational precedent, as I am pretty certain it is the very first time a shale gas test drilling application has been opposed anywhere in the UK."

Andrew RT Davies, a regional AM for South Wales Central, said: "It is regrettable that council officers were put in a difficult position through a

lack of support from the Welsh Government.

"I have argued for some time that this is a matter of national significance and have, alongside other local politicians, been asking the Welsh Government to call this application in."

"We should also pay enormous tribute to the Vale Says No campaign and others who have worked tirelessly to raise the profile of this issue."

The Plaid Cymru spokesperson for the Vale, Dr Ian Johnson, was concerned about what might happen at an appeal.

He said: "As we saw when Vale councillors refused permission for an incinerator on Barry Docks, the decisions of our elected representatives can be overturned on appeal to planning inspectors who have no public mandate."

"That this can happen is unacceptable and shows a need for the planning process to be changed."

South Wales Central AM Eluned Parrott said "I am delighted the Vale of Glamorgan councillors have voted against this uncertain process

despite contrary advice from planning officers."

"This should have been called in by the Minister and I am still keen that the Minister will provide guidance on the general issue of fracking and its associated drilling."

"The matter has not been laid to rest and there will be an appeal which must also be contested vigorously."

Andy Chyba said that, in his opinion, the application had failed because of "the lack of any regulatory regime designed specifically for this industry".

He went on: "Test drilling applications should not be considered in isolation. They are simply the first step in a linked set of stages to full production."

"If there is no chance of allowing subsequent stages, there is no point in allowing the first stage."

"The councillors on the committee accepted this argument against the advice of their planning officers, whose tick box sheets presumably cannot cope with 'big picture' thinking."



Year-5 pupils at Rhws primary school get physical with the Batak challenge of hitting random red lights, symbolising turning off stand-by lights at home to save energy.

Local pupils pledge to work on climate change



Year-4 pupils are given some extra help from Aberthaw Power Station commercial manager Mark Picton.

AROUND 200 pupils from three primary schools have vowed to play their part in combating climate change – by participating in an npower Climate Cops Academy.

Eagleswell Primary School in Llantwit Major hosted the final Climate Cop Academy. A group of students from year-4 and 5 were shown some

simple ways to save energy in an exciting and engaging way.

The interactive day was filled with activities, including generating electricity with body movement, working with miniature examples of renewable energy sources, using thermal imaging cameras to see how much heat is emitted from the human body and the effects of insulation.

Coun Keith Geary,

Eagleswell governor and Llantwit town councillor, joined the year-6 pupils, their teacher Lisa Crowther and head Neil Watkins to welcome the Climate Cops Academy to the school.

Coun Geary said: "Pupils rose to the challenge at the Climate Cops Academy, thoroughly enjoying the practical activities and exercises."

The Climate Cops also spent a day at Llanilltud Fawr Primary School in Llantwit Major and Rhws Primary School – leading even more children through a fun packed day, teaching them some simple ways of saving energy and money.

Clare McDougall, head of community and education at npower, was delighted with the enthusiastic response by teachers and pupils, saying:

"It's wonderful that the Climate Cops programme is helping schools across the UK to become greener and more sustainable, and is inspiring young people to get involved in energy efficiency, themselves."

CCTV arrests

THE CCTV operation, working under the umbrella of the Safer Vale Partnership, assisted with five arrests in the week ending October 23.

Information from the team also led to two individuals being issued with court summonses and one receiving a fixed penalty notice.

CCTV contacted the police on 36 occasions: on October 20, one arrest was made concerning criminal damage on High Street, Barry and the following day another was made for breach of curfew on Skomer Road, Barry. On October 22, three individuals were arrested following an affray on Broad Street, Barry.

Information from the CCTV team also led to two individuals on Boverton Road, Llantwit Major, being issued with court summonses over criminal damage, and one individual being issued with a fixed penalty notice for the same offence on the same road. These incidents took place on October 21 and 22.

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Yr Eisteddfod - Sut Fedraf Helpu?

Mae nifer o bobol leol wedi cysylltu gyda ni dros yr wythnosau diwethaf i ofyn sut y gallent fod o gymorth neu ddod yn rhan o'r trefnu?

Mae sawl ffordd i wneud hyn ac mae'r Eisteddfod yn falch iawn o fedru daigau eu bod yn cynnig 'rhywbeth' at bawb' ac felly dyma ambell syniad ar sut i fod yn rhan o'r Wyl.

Stewardio: Mae'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn ddibynnol iawn ar gefnogaeth a chyfraniad helaeth gwirfoddolwyr, yn ystod y cyfnod paratoadol ac yn ystod yr wythnos ei hun.

Mae gan stiwardiaid rôl bwysig yn ystod yr wythnos - yn aml iawn, y stiwardiaid yw wyneb cyhoeddus yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, ac mae eu cyfraniad yn amhrisiadwy.

Os hoffech chi wirfoddoli fel stiward ar gyfer Eisteddfod 2012, cysylltwch â ni yn Swyddfa'r Eisteddfod neu gallwch lawr lwytho'r ffurflen gais o wefan yr Eisteddfod: www.eisteddfod.org.uk.

Pwyllgorau Apêl a Marchnata: Mae Pwyllgorau Apêl wedi eu sefydlu ar draws y Sir ac wedi bod yn brysyr yn trefnu calendar o ddigwyddiadau ar gyfer y misoedd sydd i ddod.

Ymysg y gweithgareddau ar gyfer yr wythnosau nesaf mae 'noson o straeon a chaneuon ysbryd yn nhafarn Boverton Castle, Boverton ar Dachwedd 9fed a siawns i wyllo'r ffilm 'Grand Slam' gyda rhai o'r cast gwreiddiol, Dewi Pws a Sharon Morgan a'r Cyfarwyddwr, John Hefin, yn rhannu eu hatgefnid o'r ffilm yn Ysgol Bro Morgannwg ar Dachwedd 18fed.

Mae manylion pellach ynghyd â rhestr lawn o'r digwyddiadau ar gael ar wefan yr Eisteddfod. **Cystadlu:** Cyflwynwyd cystaf cyntaf o'r Rhestr Testunau gan Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Gwaith, Dr Dylan Jones i'r Archdderwydd yn ystod Seremoni'r Cyhoeddi.

Mae'r llyfr hyn yn cynnwys manylion holl gystadlaethau'r Eisteddfod. Mae ar gael o swyddfa'r Eisteddfod - 029 2076 3777 neu o'r wefan www.eisteddfod.org.uk.

Ymysg y beirniaid eleni fydd yr actor Matthew Rhys a fydd yn beirniadu Gwobr Goffa Richard Burton am y monolog orau a'r tenor Wynne Evans a'r soprano Rebecca Evans a fydd yn beirniadu yn yr adran gerdd.

Perfformio: Mae sawl ffordd i berfformio'r lleol boed yn ddawnsiwr, cantor neu grwpiau i gymryd rhan: o gymryd rhan mewn noson i godi arian gydag un o'r pwyllgorau apêl, i berfformio ar un o'r llwyfannau perfformio ar y maes - cysylltwch gyda'r swyddfa am wybodaeth bellach.

Logi Stodin: Dros gyfnod o 8 diwrnod, mae'r Maes 35 acer yn gartref i dros 300 o stodinau - yn fusnesau, crefftswyr, elusennau, sefydliadau - ychydig o bopeth - mecca ar gyfer siopwyr - a'r siop dros dro orau y cewch chi byth.

Gyda channoedd o weithgareddau o bob math yn ystod yr wythnos ac ymgyrch gyfathrebu gynhwysfawr i ddenu ymwelwyr, gallwch chi fod yn rhan o'r bwrilw a'r hwyl i gyd - yn gwerthu'ch cynnyrch neu wasanaeth - yn ehangu'ch busnes a denu cwsmeriaid newydd.

Ein gobaith yw denu mwy o siopau, busnesau a chrefftswyr o Gymru i'r Maes a hyrwyddo'r Eisteddfod fel ffenestr siop i bopeth Cymraeg a Chymreig. Os ydych chi'n meddwl y gallai'ch cwmni chi elwa o'r cyfle hwn, cysylltwch.

Mae cost stodin yn yr Eisteddfod yn gys-tadleuol iawn ac yn gyfle busnes arbennig. Cyhoeddir y prisiau ddechrau'r flwyddyn a bydd y manylion i gyd yn ymddangos ar wefan yr Eisteddfod.

Os hoffech chi drafod anghenion eich cwmni, anfonwch e-bost atom - eira@eisteddfod.org.uk - a byddwn yn hapus i'ch cynghori a'ch helpu i ddewis stodin sy'n gweithio i chi.

Felly os oes gennych ddiddordeb mewn cymryd rhan, cysylltwch â ni! E-bostiwch fi ar sioned@eisteddfod.org.uk neu ffoniwch ar 029 2076 3777.

Hwn yw'r tro cyntaf ers 1968 i'r Wyl arbennig yma i ymweld â'r Fro felly peidiwch â cholli'r cyfle i fod yn rhan ohono.

The Eisteddfod: How can I get involved? Many local people have approached us over the last few weeks to ask how they can help or get involved?

There are many ways to do so and as the Eisteddfod prides itself on being able to offer something for everyone, here are some of the ways you can get 'on board'.

Stewarding: The National Eisteddfod is very dependant on the support and the invaluable contribution of volunteers, both during the months prior to the event and during the festival itself.

Stewards have an important role during the week - in many instances, the stewards are the public face of the National Eisteddfod, and their contribution helps the event to run smoothly.

If you would like to volunteer as a steward for the 2012 Eisteddfod, please contact us at the Eisteddfod office or you can download the application form from the Eisteddfod website: www.eisteddfod.org.uk.

Local Marketing and Appeal Groups: Appeal Committees have been set up around the Vale of Glamorgan and have been hard at work organ-

ising an itinerary of events for the coming months.

Amongst the planned events for the coming weeks are an 'Evening of Ghostly stories, and haunting songs' at Boverton Castle public house on November 9 and a chance to watch the iconic rugby film 'Grand Slam' on November 18 at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry.

The Director John Hefin and two of the stars, Dewi Pws and Sharon Morgan will also be present to share their memories of the making of this legendary film. Further details and a full list of events are available from the Eisteddfod website.

Competing: The first copy of subjects list was presented by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Dr Dylan Jones to the Archdderwydd at the Proclamation Ceremony.

This book includes details of all the competitions at the Eisteddfod. It is available from the Eisteddfod Office - 029 2076 3777 or website www.eisteddfod.org.uk.

Performing: There are numerous opportunities for local singers, dancers, musicians etc to get involved. From organising a fundraising night on behalf of the local appeal committee to performing at the Eisteddfod itself - contact the office for information.

Hire a Trade Stand: Over a period of 8 days, the 35 acre Maes is home to over 300 stands - busi-



nesses, craftspeople, charities, statutory organisations and many more choose to use the Eisteddfod as their ultimate pop up shop.

With hundreds of activities of all kinds throughout the week, and a large scale communications campaign to attract visitors, you too could be part of the Eisteddfod buzz and vibrancy - selling your product or service - developing your business and attracting new customers.

If you feel that you and your business would benefit from this opportunity, and are interested in having a trade stand at the 2012 Eisteddfod, booking forms and costs will be available on the Eisteddfod website from 1 February 2012 or e mail your interest to Eira Bowen at the Eisteddfod Office - 029 2076 3777 or website www.eisteddfod.org.uk.

So, if you are interested in getting involved, then the message is get in touch! e mail me at sioned@eisteddfod.org.uk or pick up the phone 029 2076 3777.

This is the first time since 1968 that this great national event will visit the Vale, so don't miss out on the opportunity to be part of it.

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Sue Newbon of Cats Eyes Driving School achieves highest grades

Sue Newbon started Cats Eyes Driving School in 1993 as the sole instructor and has been advertising with the Gem since then. Cats Eyes has come a long way and now has many Instructors covering South Wales, Devon, Cornwall and Bournemouth.

Sue has recently attained the highest grade possible that a driving instructor can achieve. All Driving Instructors are graded from 1 to 6, with 6 being the highest grade. The majority of driving instructors are actually grade 4. Only 6% of all driving instructors are grade 6. The testing for all instructors is conducted by the DSA and is carried out every 2 to 4 years.



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Concert helps the RAFA Wings Appeal



WITH thunderous applause throughout the evening, an enthusiastic audience listened attentively to the Barry Male Voice Choir, the RAFA Concert Band (from Weston-super-Mare), and the Tonyrefail Ladies Choir, all performing at their best in a lively, light but disciplined performance, on behalf of the RAFA Barry branch Wings Appeal at the Barry Comprehensive School.

From marching with Max Boyce, flying with the Dam Busters, to Pirates of the Caribbean or highlights from Oliver, and from John Rutter to Elton John, there was something for all.

The whole programme did not disappoint as the band and choirs performed their individual repertoires, accumulating in a grand finale with audience and perform-

ers joining together for old favourites.

As a result, more than £1,000 was raised for the RAFA Wings Appeal, which supports serving and former RAF personnel and their families whenever they are in need.

The Wings Appeal's mission is simple: to ensure that their sacrifice does not result in suffering, loneliness or poverty. Whether it's an injured airman fighting to get back onto his feet, a young child missing a parent on overseas operations, or a WWII veteran needing a shoulder to lean on, RAFA is there to help.

Geoff Horton, chairman and welfare officer of the Barry branch, was full of praise.

He said: "We receive no government funding and are entirely dependent on the generosity of the public to carry on our work."

"I cannot thank enough the public and the many organisations and individuals for their support and sponsorship."

Howard Provis, the secretary and organiser of the event, wished to thank the sponsors: AG Adams & Son, Funeral Directors, Marshall's Butchers, Mr Swallow, the headteacher at Barry Comprehensive School, Branch St David 211 Foresters, Paul Baker, RAFA area director, Jane Hutt AM, and Mr Doug Provis.

Guests included the Deputy Vale Mayor, Coun Katherine Kemp and her husband, Coun Gordon Kemp, Barry Mayor Coun Bronwen Brooks and her consort Mr Wayne Brooks, Squadron Leader Penny Green and Flight Lieutenant Gareth Edwards of MoD St Athan, Vale MP Alun Cairns MP and his wife, Mr Swallow, headteacher of Barry Comprehensive and his wife, and Mr Arthur Thompson and partner of A G Adams & Son.

People wishing to donate may do so throughout the year through collection boxes, or by going on line at www.rafa.org.uk

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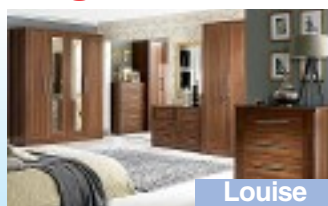
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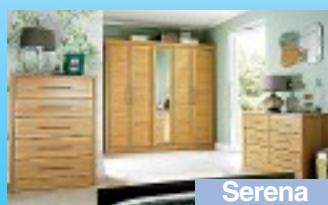
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Shaldon

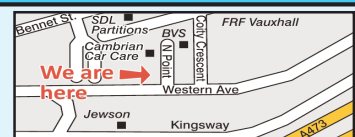


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Out and About with The GEM

MP's surgeries

THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, will be holding advice surgeries this Friday, October 28, as follows:

1.30pm-3pm at the Community Centre, Stewart Road, Rhosce and 4pm-5.30pm, a home energy surgery at West Quay Medical Centre, Hood Road, Barry.

Anyone in the Vale is welcome to attend, but it is advisable to call 01446 403814 to make an appointment.

Wick fayre

WICK and District Pensioners Club holds an autumn fayre in Wick Village Hall on Saturday, October 29 from 2pm-4pm.

Admission 50p, to include refreshments. There will be a variety of stalls, including food, books, collectables and a grand raffle, with prizes of hamper, wine, DVD player, chocolates. All welcome.

For further informa-

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tion, contact George Jeffery on 01656 890386.

Table top sale

A TABLE top sale will be held on October 29 at St Athan Community Centre from 12pm-4pm.

Table £4 to hire. Contact Carol on 01446 730100, or Ann on 01446 754179 for details.

Charity car boot

LLANTWIT Major Rugby Club will be the venue for a table top sale and car boot sale on October 29 from 10am-2pm. Proceeds go towards repairs to Mount Pleasant Church, Barry.

Admission £5 per car/£5 per table. Pay on the day. Contact 01446 796287 for details.

Eisteddfod fundraising events

EVENTS to raise funds for the National Eisteddfod 2012 appeal are being held as follows:

Line dancing evening:

FREE TASTER

Walk-in class for NEW BEGINNERS Latin Dance/Exercise Thursdays 7-8 pm
No experience or dance partner
All Welcome - Great Fun
07753 413 266
Barry Island Social Club
11 Redbrink Crescent

this Saturday, October 29 at 7.30pm, Llantonian Hall, Llanton Major. The local line dance group will be joined by the Mayor, Eddie Williams.

Bring food to share, and drinks for your own consumption. Dress in green, red or white!

Tickets prior to the event essential. Cost £6, contact Chas Allen for tickets on 01446 795875.

On November 7 at 7.30pm, Tales for a winter evening, in the Boverton Castle pub, Boverton.

Ghostly stories and haunting songs, performed by David Ambrose, storyteller and director of Beyond the Border Storytelling Festival. Entrance £5. Contact 01446 793530.

Memorial service

ALL Souls Day services are being held on

November 2 at 10.30am in St Peter's Church, Rhosce and 7.30pm at St Curig's, Porthkerry, where departed loved ones will be remembered by name.

Forward names via website <http://thep-arishofporthkerryandrhosce.btck.co.uk> or call 01446 711713 to have names added to the list.

Berry Merry Christmas! THE Cowbridge and District Flower Arrangers Club meets at 7.30pm on November 2 in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall, when Elizabeth Gordon will give a demonstration entitled 'A Very Berry Merry Christmas'.

Valeways walks ON Wednesday, November 2 at 1.45pm, More information at www.forestschool-wales.org <<http://www.forestschool-wales.org>> or www.foresteducationinitiative.org <<http://www.foresteducationinitiative.org>>.

Many people will be surprised to learn that there was a flourishing coalfield in the southern part of Pembrokeshire, which was active until the early part of the 1950s.

Although on a far, far smaller scale than the great south Wales coalfield, it still played an important part in the life of the area.

Martin Connop-Price is the acknowledged expert on the history of the coalfield and has written several books on the subject.

THE winners of our recent competition to win a pair of tickets to the Clothes Show Live at Birmingham's NEC on Friday, December 7 were:

Ann Evans, Barry; Mrs K Rowe, Porthcawl; and Chris May, Rhosce.

Congratulations to you all and look out for more great GEM competitions!

Antique & Collectors Fair

at The Copthorne Hotel, Culverhouse Cross CF5 6DH.
Sunday 30th October 10am-4.30pm
Admission £1.50
Accompanied children free.
For further enquiries
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02920 512349

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'Coffee Shop Strollers' starting outside the Tourist Information Office, Barry Island.

Walks last 60-90 minutes except for extended walks which last up to two hours and the Coffee Shop Strollers, which is an easy walk which is accessible to all.

St Helen's Church bazaar

THE parish of St Helen's Church, Barry, will be holding its annual bazaar on Saturday, November 5 at the Barry Memorial Hall.

Doors open at 1.30pm, admission 50p.

It will include traditional stalls, good value and quality as well as games and Mrs Christmas for the children.

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Zambia choir bring Praise from Africa



THE Zambia Choir ended their Wales tour with an acclaimed concert, 'Africa Praise', at Crossway Methodist Church on October 13.

The 30 ladies of the Women's Christian fellowship choir flew back to Zambia last week.

The monthly Messy Church takes place on Monday, October 31, from 3.30pm-5.15pm at Crossway Methodist Church. (For children aged 3-11, a parent or guardian should be present).

The theme is a 'Bright Light Party' which encourages children to break away from the usual Halloween activities and the fear it may cause to all ages, and focus on Jesus as the light of the world.

Children go as their favourite action hero, or dressed in bright clothing. (No Halloween costumes!) For more information, contact the ministers, Deacon Samantha or Rev Peter Taylor, Telephone 01446 406262 or email deaconsam@live.co.uk

ABOVE: The Zambia Choir,

£1,000 raised for the Wings appeal

FUNERAL Directors, A G Adams & Son, recently sponsored a magical musical evening in aid of RAFA Wings appeal.

The concert was held at Barry Comprehensive School and was attended by Barry Town Mayor, Coun Bronwen Brooks, the Deputy Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Mrs Kathryn Kemp, and her husband Coun Gordon Kemp.

Squadron Leader Penny Green from MoD St Athan, accompanied by Flight Lt Gareth Edwards, Alun Cairns MP, and his wife, Emma.

A crowd of 180 were spellbound by the music provided by RAFA Concert Band, Tonyrefail Ladies Choir and Barry Male Voice Choir.

The evening raised over £1,000 for the Wings appeal.

Arthur Thompson, manager of the funeral home, said:

"We pride ourselves on our commitment to the community and were only too pleased to help with this very worthwhile concert to raise much needed funds, as well as enjoy a wonderful evening of quality entertainment."

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www.maesteganimalrescue.co.uk

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We have recently refurbished the nursery and are proud to have received an excellent CSSW inspection report - come along and find out why!

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Congratulations to you all and look out for more great GEM competitions!

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Barry Island
5th November



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FIREWORK FIESTA AT BARRY ISLAND

Barry Island gears up for the fun 'Fireworks Fiesta'

ONCE again, the Rotary Club of Barry is promising to bring an exceptional evening of fun and fireworks to Barry Island on

November 5.

It will be the 38th 'Fireworks Fiesta'.

A spokesman explained: "We will be holding it whatever the weather brings, so please ignore any rumours to the con-

trary. By agreement with Pendragon Firework, based in Wales, this year's display should be bigger and better than ever.

"People should come along and enjoy themselves in what promises to be a wonderful evening of fun, fireworks and music.

"The fireworks will start at 7.45pm prompt, but to avoid the last-minute rush, we suggest arriving from 6pm.

"You will be able to enjoy the delights of the Island traders and the funfair before and after the main event."

The spokesman pointed out that parking is available in the main car parks for only £2 a vehicle. Limited disabled parking on Friars Road is also available.

"We implore everyone attending to donate at least £1 into the collecting buckets, as the future funding of this event is in doubt.

"If everyone gave at least £1, we could ensure the continuation of the event, and help deserving causes so much more.



ABOVE: Get ready for the fireworks fiesta at Barry Island next Saturday night!

"Over the years, this has been a very popular event and traffic delays are to be expected. Where possible, please car share and consider alternative forms of transport to and from Barry Island."

TRANSPORT
 Barry Docks Station/Barry Station: Park at either site and take the Arriva train service to Barry Island.

Arriva Trains: Arriva Trains Wales operates a regular service to Barry Island - www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk or tel:

08457 48 49 50.

Hood Road Train Service: The Barry Tourist Railway will be operating a train service from the Hood Road Station to Barry Island Station from 6pm-9pm.

Parking is free at Hood Road and a small charge applies for the return train journey.

The spokesman concluded: "The Rotary Club of Barry apologises to the residents of Barry Island for the inconvenience caused during the road closure period (5.30pm-9.30pm)."

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

BARRY ISLAND - FIREWORKS SATURDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2011

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of the

Schedules hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedules will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulations shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof listed in schedule 1 shall be closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles with the exception of Emergency Services and Coastguard vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of schedule 1.

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof listed in schedule 2 shall be closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles with the exception of Permit holding Residents', Public and Emergency Service Vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of schedule 2. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00.

Schedule 1

Column 1

Saturday 5th
 November 2011

Column 2

Paget Road between Harbour Road and its cul de sac end near the lifeguard station including the unnamed section of road to the side of No19 Paget Road (excluding the lane).

Station Approach Road throughout the length, including its gyratory of the roundabout at Whites Corner.

Breaksea Drive from its western junction with Adar-y-Mor to its junction with Station Approach Road.

Friars Road, between its junction with Station Approach Road and Paget Road

Column 3

5.30pm-9.30pm

Schedule 2

Column 1

Saturday 5th
 November 2011

Column 2

Westward Rise, Porth-Y-Castell, Bron A Welon, Tan-Y-Fron, Min-Y-Mor, Pen-Y-Bryn, Marine Drive, Trem-Y-Don, Swn-Y-Mor, Cliff Wood View and Bull Cliff Walk.

Column 3

5.00pm-9.00pm

Local signed diversions shall be in place. Access for Pedestrians shall be maintained. Dated this 27th day of October 2011.

M Punter, Head of Visible Services
 Vale of Glamorgan Council,
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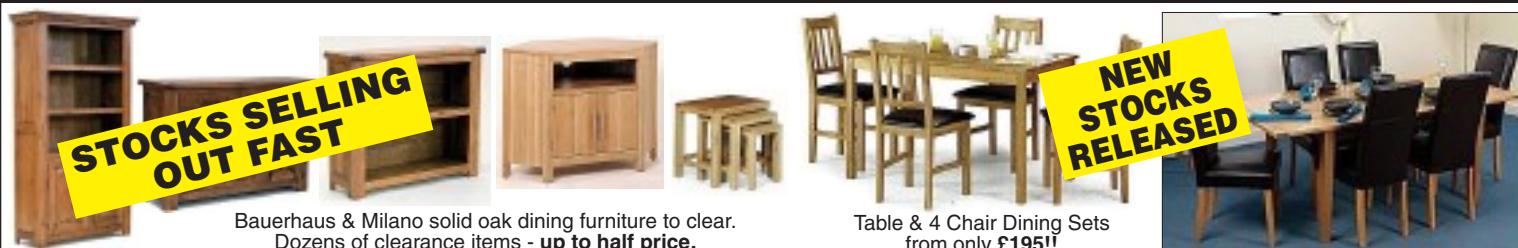
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Man airlifted to safety at Southerndown beach

RESCUE services were scrambled on Tuesday (October 25) this week when a man became trapped by the incoming tide at cliffs in Southerndown.

At about 4.30pm, the HM Coastguard Search and Cliff Rescue team, based in Llantwit Major, were called out to the 23-year-old man when he became cut off on a walk from Omore-by-Sea to Southerndown.

A spokesman said: "The rescue was a multi-agency response, which was overseen remotely by the Maritime Co-Ordination Centre in Swansea and also involved Porthcawl Coastguards, RNLI Porthcawl, RAF

Rescue 169, South Wales Police and the Police helicopter.

"The casualty, who became stuck on a ledge due to the rising tide, was airlifted to safety by the helicopter, which then landed at a site prepared by the Coastguards before returning to its base at Chivenor."

Robin Jackson, station officer of the Llantwit Major Coastguard team, sounded a warning to anyone out walking on the coast:

"This is another example where along our coastline the speed of incoming tides is not fully understood, and individuals often unknowingly place themselves in danger."



UP,
UP,
AND
AWAY

ABOVE: The man is airlifted to safety.

Council planning appeal is a 'surprise' for Vale MP

THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, has expressed his "surprise" that the Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is lodging an appeal against its neighbouring local authority – the Vale of Glamorgan.

The planning appeal concerns the Omore Residential Centre at Omore by Sea, which

is owned by BCBC, but is within the planning boundaries of the Vale Council.

The appeal follows the decision by the Vale Council to refuse planning permission for the demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of the site for residential purposes.

Mr Cairns came out against the plans to build 84 houses on the site of the former education

centre in Omore by Sea back in 2010.

The MP has previously stated that, in his view, the development is out of scale with the village and would adversely affect its character.

Mr Cairns said this week: "I'm surprised and disappointed that one democratic organisation has lodged an appeal against another."

"The access is unsuitable for a development of this size, the whole thing is too big."

"A smaller development on the site could be acceptable, but villagers are very unhappy about these proposals, and any plan would need to include community facilities."

Mr Cairns is also critical of the tight grip that the Welsh Government has imposed on planning authorities.

He continued: "Local authorities have been put into a strait jacket by all the regulations imposed by the Welsh Government."

"However, I was pleased that the Vale Council listened to residents' concerns and followed its own planning policies and turned down the original application."

Charity coffee in Rhose

A REPORT last week about a coffee morning held by Mrs S Hardy of Rhose did not include the information that it was in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Mrs Hardy told The GEM: "Further donations over the last week have increased the total cash raised to £684.50."

in England, planning authorities have a lot more leeway to take decisions in the best interests of the people in their area.

"Here in Wales, we have a more centralised form of planning control."

"There is a risk that the Welsh Government could approve the appeal which goes against local residents' wishes for their own community and the WG would also charge the legal costs of the appeal to local council tax payers."

Mr Cairns added that Omore by Sea was a village of 400 houses with few facilities.

He stressed that any proposed development must be of a suitable scale so that the increase in population can be absorbed into the community.

Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale AM Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery on Saturday, October 29 from 10am to 12noon at the Vale of Glamorgan Citizens Advice Bureau in Barry at 119 Broad Street CF62 7TZ. No appointment necessary.

DINNER DANCE

THE Parish of Penarth All Saints is holding a fundraising dinner dance with auction of promises on Saturday, November 19 in the Paget Rooms.

All proceeds go to the building project currently nearing completion. Tickets available from Mel Griffin on 029 2071 2301 or from Foxy's del-

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How to keep healthy, safe and warm
– as winter weather approaches

WHILE most of us are holding on to the last days of sunshine, a local warmth scheme is encouraging residents in the Vale with cold or damp-related illnesses, to think ahead and ensure their homes are prepared for the winter before the cold weather returns.

npower 'Health Through Warmth', which is managed locally by the Vale Council, aims to help people whose health is made worse by cold and damp living conditions as a result of inadequate heating and insulation in their homes.

Illnesses that can be adversely affected by cold and damp living conditions include respiratory and cardiovascular disorders, diabetes, arthritis, terminal illness, mental health issues and mobility difficulties.

npower's Health Through Warmth scheme may be able to assist with the installation of cavity wall and loft insulation, boiler repair or replacement, heating systems and appliances, as well as provide relevant advice and information.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

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FOODIES CAN SHOW SUPPORT FOR TY HAFAN!

ONE lucky visitor to the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival could be heading home with a hamper – packed full of the best festival produce!

It's the star prize in a raffle, organised by The GEM, and in aid of Ty Hafan, the hospice in Sully for children with life-limiting medical conditions.

Volunteers from Ty Hafan will be at the festival all weekend, and tickets are only £1. As

exhibitors have been most generous in their support, the winner will be taking home a real treat.

A spokesman for Ty Hafan told The GEM: "This year, there has been a noticeable increase in families who have been referred to us. "As our running costs are paid for by public donation, we need the public's help more than ever."

"We hope that visitors to the festival will spare a thought for the children at Ty Hafan and buy a ticket."

Lions' thanksgiving

THE Lions' thanksgiving service on October 9 at Cadoxton Methodist Church was very well attended and included Jane Hutt AM, together with four mayors – the Mayor of Deizes and members of the Town Council, and the Mayors of Fishguard, Barry, and Penarth.

The Mayor of the Vale was due to attend but was unfortunately unwell and had to cancel.

Bearing in mind that last year's thanksgiving was held at Brecon Cathedral, Barry Lions Club was proud to be invited to organise this year's event and were delighted that the service and the buffet following was well received.

David Langford, Barry and Penarth Lions Club.



TURN BACK THE CLOCKS

Remember to put your clocks

BACK this weekend

"Spring Forward" "Fall Back"



RoSPA CALLS FOR TIME CHANGE WITH DARK NIGHTS DRAWING IN

WITH the dark nights drawing in, RoSPA has renewed calls for a change in the way the UK operates 'winter time'.

For decades, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents has been at the forefront of a crusade to give the country an extra hour of evening daylight – citing research that shows lighter nights would save 80 lives and prevent more than 200 serious injuries on our roads each year.

Apart from the avoidance of grief and suffering, the organisation argues that fewer road accidents would also bring considerable annual savings to taxpayers.

RoSPA believes the clock change campaign is closer to succeeding now than at any time since 1970, thanks to Rebecca Harris MP's Private Members' Bill – which passed its second reading in Parliament last December with a huge majority.

To help the Bill clear the next hurdle, RoSPA is calling on the public to help convince Westminster of its popularity.

People can also do this by clicking the 'Support Our Campaign' button at www.rospace.com/about/currentcampaigns/lighter-evenings/.

If successful, the Bill will lead to the Government carrying out a cross-departmental analysis of the benefits of Single/Double Summer Time (GMT+1 in winter / GMT+2 in summer) – which in turn could trigger a three-year trial.

Tom Mullarkey, RoSPA's chief executive, said: "Now that darkness is about to descend – and with it an almost inevitable spike in road accidents at twilight, we need to rekindle the debate.

"With Rebecca Harris's Daylight Saving Bill about to be discussed in the House of Commons again, it's time to see some democracy in action."

He pointed out: "At a time of extraordinary government spending cuts, you would think that politicians would read the 2009

Department for Transport report, which showed that the implementation of this measure would cost the department £5million – but save £138million that year and every year thereafter."

Mr Mullarkey said his concern was that no UK party appeared willing to risk its Scottish vote by promoting the issue, because they feared they might weaken their share of the vote north of the border – especially while there was talk of a referendum on independence.

He argued: "So we may as well describe it for what it is: a political calculation at a senior level, taking away these potential benefits from 60 million people, so that party electoral stability, and the strength of the Union, can be protected, or at least not put to the test."

RoSPA claims that if a trial was successful we would end up:

- **Healthier** – because we would have more evening daylight to take exercise and be outside

- **Wealthier** – because we would save money on electricity, inject £3billion into the economy through tourism and create 60,000 new jobs (if ever we needed that fillip, now is the time!)

- **More secure** – because our elderly would have an hour shorter winter "curfew" and evening crime would fall

- **Safer** – because 80 lives would be saved on the roads per year and 212 serious injuries avoided

- **Greener** – because we would reduce our carbon emissions by 450,000 tons per year, equivalent to 85 per cent of all the renewable energy we currently generate, enough to power two-thirds of Glasgow.

Prepare for months ahead

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

Health Through Warmth launched in the Vale in 2003, and to date 2,700 local vulnerable residents have been referred to the scheme for help with heating and insulation measures.

A total of £3.2 million has been levered to secure funding for the measures required, which includes more than £48,000 from charitable organisations.

In addition, nearly £180,000 has been accessed from the unique RWE npower Health Through Warmth Crisis Fund.

Elaine Midwinter, npower Health Through Warmth scheme manager, comments: "Now is a good time for residents to check that their heating is in good working order.

"Residents can ensure that they are prepared when the temperature drops, giving them peace of

mind that they can stay warm and comfortable in their homes during the cold winter months."

But to keep safe and sound this winter, it is not just about keeping warm.

Now is the time people should think about having any outside lights checked or fixed to ensure there are no avoidable accidents in the darkness.

Reliable lighting doesn't just help in terms of physical safety, it also provides a measure of security for householders.

Now is also the time to make sure that damaged paths and steps are dealt with – before the snowy spells arrive.

Outside maintenance is essential in making sure that both residents and

visitors don't suffer a nasty fall. Again, with poor weather predicted, the advice to those who rely on deliveries of fuel is to make sure you have sufficient supplies for as long as possible.

For more information on the Health Through Warmth scheme, please visit www.healththroughwarmth.com.



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Local councils given a tough grant settlement

THE Welsh Government has announced how much 'core funding' it will be giving to local councils, as they plan their budget for next year (2012/13).

Local Government Minister Carl Sargeant announced that both Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and the Vale Council will get slight rises.

He said: "Despite the budget reductions imposed on Wales by the UK Government, I am increasing slightly the cash funding of local authorities in the coming years."

However, that increase is slight, with the Vale Council getting 0.2 per cent more – moving from £150,597,000 to £150,872,000.

BCBC gets a 0.5 per cent rise, from £178,692,000 to £179,649,000.

Mr Sargeant went on to say: "To protect schools, the settlement includes an increase in funding for education of around £80 million by 2014-15.

"There is also an increase of £35 million to enable councils to meet the pressure on vital social services for the young and old during these difficult times."

As there are 22 local authorities in Wales, the Minister appears to be saying that, after the £80million is split between the councils, there is just short of £4 million extra for schools.

Similarly, after the £35 million for social services is divided, he is arguing that councils will get £1.5 million extra.

Clearly, he expects cuts to be made in other parts of the councils' budgets. He closed by saying that it would be possible for councils, if they chose, to freeze council tax bills.

Nothing humerus about the Canon's broken bone!

CANON Derek Belcher, Rector of Holy Cross Church, is recovering from a broken arm – sustained when he was running downstairs to answer the door.

Canon Belcher told The GEM that he slipped on his way downstairs last week and "heard a sharp crack" as he put his arm out to break his fall.

He said: "I have broken my humerus, and I am in quite a bit of pain at the moment.

"I am taking painkillers, but I will be back in church for the Eucharist Service."

He added that the pain at the time of the accident had been "excruciating".

The accident has had another unfortunate side effect, because it has meant the cancellation

of an operation that Canon Belcher was due to have on his kidney.

He said: "I told my congregation some time ago, that I was due to have an operation to remove a tumour from my left kidney.

"That will now have to be rescheduled, depending on the advice I get this week from the consultant looking at my arm."

However, Canon Belcher told The GEM that he was not concerned about the delay, as he had been told that the kidney operation could be safely put off.

Balloons were bio-degradable!

In response to Mr G Owen's recent letter, regarding our Welsh Baccalaureate balloon launch last month, I can assure him that St Cyres School takes environmental education very seriously indeed.

All of our pupils have Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship written into their curriculum, and we begin this work in the first week that our new year-7 pupils enter the school.

We run a thriving Eco-School group, which promotes recycling both inside and outside the school site, and the youngsters have been closely involved in working with the design team for the new St

Cyres School building to ensure that our carbon footprint is reduced, we make best use of rainwater harvesting and that energy costs are reduced through maximum use of natural energy.

St Cyres School, is therefore, not contributing to any "depletion of wildlife". On the contrary, our sixth form pupils recently won a national competition and spent several days studying the wildlife on the Galapagos Islands.

Full risk assessments were carried out, in conjunction with a variety of parties at the planning stage.

In addition, the balloons released were non-toxic, made of natural materials and are biodegradable.

Dr Jonathan Hicks, headteacher, St Cyres School.

Lions give thanks

THE Lions' thanksgiving service on October 9 at Cadoxton Methodist Church was very well attended and included Jane Hutt AM, together with four mayors, the Mayor of Deizes and members of the Town Council, and the Mayors of Fishguard, Barry, and Penarth.

The Mayor of the Vale was due to attend but, unfortunately, was unwell and had to cancel.

Bearing in mind that last year's thanksgiving was held at Brecon Cathedral, Barry Lions Club was proud to be invited to organise this year's event and was delighted that the service and the buffet following was well received.

David Langford, Barry and Penarth Lions Club.

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Festival time – and Cowbridge puts on its best face for visitors

EXCITEMENT is building for this weekend's Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival, and traders in the town are keen to welcome new visitors.

The festival, of course, has been a huge success, and organisers have been amazed at the steady flow of suppliers wanting to display their produce, with four or five requests arriving every day, long after the list was finalised some weeks ago.

The festival director, Polly Wilson, told The GEM that, with more space, many more stall holders could have been included. She said: "It has meant that we have been able to place the

emphasis on quality and variety. Visitors will not see a number of producers selling the same things."

Quality and variety, of course, is the hallmark of shopping in Cowbridge, and visitors will find it well worth casting their eye around the town, and browsing around the shops, as well as looking for new culinary experiences.

In fact, for many local traders, the whole purpose of the food and drink festival is highlighting what a unique and special town it is – a rarity these days!

Even if they are too busy stocking up on gourmet food, or won't find in the off licence, visitors are often inspired to make several return trips to enjoy the relaxed pace of shopping in Cowbridge.

Of course, relaxed is not quite the word for the buzz that surrounds festival weekend, which has all the old favourites back.

Polly Wilson said: "We were particularly delighted that the Quarter Penny Cafe stepped in to run the champagne bar this year.

"It had lost its sponsor, but it is a highlight of the weekend, and we would welcome a new sponsor next year."

She continued: "These days, people have a real hunger for more information about cooking, so we are delighted that the sponsorship of Sigma 3 Kitchens has enabled us to put together such an exciting programme of demonstrations that feature a host of skilled chefs."

The Sigma 3 demonstration area will see a new expert taking the stand every hour or so, each in the capable hands of TV presenter Frances Donovan.

And while their area of expertise may vary, they all have one important thing in common – an unquenchable enthusiasm for food!

However, if a visitor wants to expand his or her knowledge of wine, beer, cider, or even coffee, the talks presented by Richard Ballantyne in the town hall will do just that.

Another part of the festival that has expanded is that offering entertainment for children who might get bored touring the stalls.

Polly Wilson said: "The entertainment zone, based at the Barefoot Studio in Eastgate, has a wide range of exciting workshops that will keep any child fascinated.

"Ever since we launched the festival, the aim has always been to make it a family day out, and the entertainment zone makes that aim a reality."



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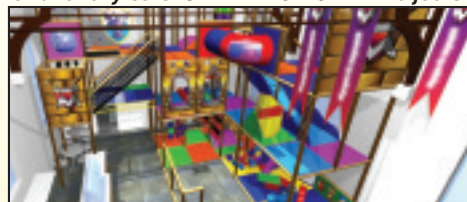
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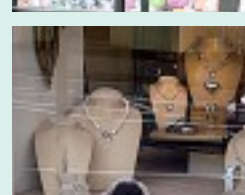
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All entrants must be 18 or over to be eligible.

Please send coupon to Bijou Play Centre at the above address, or email your answer.

Closing date Friday, 4th November. Winner to be announced in Glamorgan GEM 10th November issue.

(Normal competition rules apply. No correspondence will be entered into)





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S&K Haulage (Glamorgan) Ltd

CELEBRATE 40 YEARS ON THE ROAD



S&K HAULAGE STANDS THE TEST OF TIME...

A Barry family business that has now achieved an international reputation

S&K Haulage is an inspirational success story which spans 40 years and is an example of what can be achieved with initiative, drive and lots of hard work.

The company's story started in 1971 when a newly married technician dreamed of running his own business and began providing transport for local firms courtesy of his trusty Bedford KM truck.

Fast forward to 2011 and that man, Barry born and bred Neil Kidby, and his wife Linda, have created a thriving international business.

S&K Haulage, based at Barry docks, employs 160 people and its fleet of vehicles are a familiar sight, criss-crossing the motorways of Britain and the rest of Europe for S&K's blue-chip clients.

Andy Chucas, the company's business development manager, who was one of Neil's first apprentices in 1979, said: "It is a real rags to riches story, of a man starting with a single vehicle and developing it into the major business it is today."

"Neil is a real workaholic and Linda, who is the company secretary, has been a huge support."

"It is a true family concern – Neil and Linda's sons David, James and Lloyd are all part of the team."

"There are also people at S&K Haulage who have left school in Barry and been with the company all their working lives."

Reliable service

Despite the highs and lows of the country's economy over the last 40 years, the firm has constantly evolved and expanded.

Building on a reputation for reliable service and fulfilling delivery targets, one truck in 1971 became a fleet of nine vehicles in the early 1980s, 25 vehicles in the mid 1980s, including flatbeds, tractor units and trailers, and by the late 80s a fleet of 65 vehicles.

The growing business needed a bigger site than the one it occupied on Atlantic Trading Estate, and a move took place to a three acre complex on David Davies Road. Since then, it has been hugely developed and is the company's flag ship site.

By this time S&K Haulage was not only a major transporter of goods, it was a special-

ist player in the chemical haulage industry, and a subsidiary 'Barry Storage' had been formed and was a leader in south Wales storage options.

It had even started a specialist tanker division which also runs to this day.

'Supportive'

Neil's son James, who works on the logistics side, has literally grown up with the business.

He explained: "I can remember coming down with my dad when he worked from a small office."

"My younger brother Lloyd and I used to help cleaning up – David, my older brother, was already helping too."

David is now a senior director who is instrumental in running the company, and will one day follow Neil as the managing director and its figurehead.

James paid tribute to his mother's role in ensuring S&K's on-going success.

"My mum has been supportive of my dad throughout. On school-days, she used to drop us off and then come in for the day to sort out things like the wages before picking us up at the end of the day."

"Dad was a workaholic, constantly at the business, everything



Testing vehicles on site means the company is reducing its carbon footprint and avoids having to travel elsewhere for checks.

was tied up with it. He was very single-minded and strong willed.

"One thing I recall is that my dad was a 'last minute' man for holidays with mum organising the packing before we went!"

"Despite his dedication to the business, he was able to switch off when it came to family life and took time to take us to sports events

– Lloyd played hockey for Wales' under 18s."

Since the 1990s, S&K Haulage has consolidated its reputation as a major international haulier, employing more people, increasing the size of its fleet and providing an expanding service to clients home and abroad.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 24)

ABOVE: Red letter day – staff celebrate the opening of the VOSA accredited ATF (authorised testing facility).

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S&K Haulage (Glamorgan) Ltd

CELEBRATE 40 YEARS ON THE ROAD



'Looking forward to challenge of the day'

'Setting new bench marks and looking forward to the challenge of the day' is part of S&K Haulage's philosophy,' explained Andy Chucas, the business development manager.

The buzz and energy at the company's headquarters is evident across the site, from the reception area, to the planning and logistics department and then out into the main yard where the vehicle maintenance and testing buildings are.

What is astonishing is how clean and tidy the buildings are – no tyre marks on the floors, which are protected with mats, no stray tools or equipment; in fact a pristine environment.

ATF facility

A major new bench mark the company achieved earlier this year is the £350,000 investment in a Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

accredited MoT test and maintenance station – known as an ATF, an authorised testing facility.

The project has delivered a state-of-the-art building with two lanes. Vehicles are driven in, checked and worked on using the 23-metre long pits, tested, and then driven out the other end.

With VOSA encouraging companies to take on the responsibility of testing, S&K Haulage saw it as a big positive, ending the days of having to take its vehicles to Llantrisant for their tests, and reducing the company's carbon footprint.

It means that not only is the company geared up to do third party work; it means taking maintenance to a new level and ensuring its Volvo fleet is kept in tip-top condition.



ABOVE: For checking, the trucks are driven into the testing facility which has 23-metre long pits.



RIGHT: Andy Chucas, the business development manager, with a vehicle which proclaims S&K Haulage's successful 40 years.

S&K Haulage is international!



Neil back in 1971.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23)

It operates more than 100 tractor units, 200 trailers, and provides warehousing, packaging and transportation across Britain and Europe.

For logistical reasons, 10 of its employees are based on the Continent, but the vast majority live in Barry or in the south Wales area. Continuity of employment is also important with long service employees, like Beryl Eveleigh, who has been the accounts manager for 22 years.

S&K Haulage is a local success story that proves inspired leadership and a solid foundation can build a company that stands the test of time!

ABOVE: Neil hard at work in the early days, and below with his Bedford KM truck.



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S&K Haulage (Glamorgan) Ltd

CELEBRATE 40 YEARS ON THE ROAD



S&K Haulage's fleet travels length and breadth of Europe



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FOR ECONOMY

S&K Haulage's flagship Barry headquarters is home to a fleet which transports goods and chemicals for British companies to countries across Europe and back, providing a vital service for the south Wales economy.



'Geared up for the challenges of 21st century transport'

IN developing and planning an authorised testing facility (ATF) S&K Haulage is fulfilling a number of ambitions set out by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency.

VOSA was formed in 2003, with the aim of providing licensing, testing and enforcement services – to improve the standards of vehicles on our roads.

The agency has now decided there are benefits to the idea of transforming the way testing of vehicles is carried out, by literally taking testing facilities to the customer.

In building its own ATF, S&K Haulage bought into the idea of being able to test on its own non-VOSA private site on David Davies Road.

Enabling companies to do this has a number of plus points.

There are savings in

terms of cost because the vehicles can be tested 'at home' meaning they have less down time and they are not having to be driven to a VOSA facility.

Local companies can also use the testing facilities at their nearest designated ATF, again reducing emissions and congestion on the roads.

Fewer re-tests are expected because maintenance and testing is expected to be done in the same place.

congestion, less damage to the road network and less noise, fewer accidents, and fewer greenhouse gases.

The main purpose of having its own ATF was so that S&K Haulage could ensure it was doing its utmost to reduce carbon footprint.

However, in the future it could become a one-stop shop for local operators who need testing or repair and maintenance facilities.



S&K Haulage are proud to announce due to continuous expansion the following vacancies:

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COWBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

AT a recent meeting of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, PCSO Hilary O'Callaghan revealed that there had been a spate of burglaries in the area, some at dwellings and some involving garages and sheds.

She told the council that there had been three burglaries where tools were taken from storage buildings.

In the case of thefts from homes, she said that some were "opportunistic"

— taking advantage of insecure doors or windows.

In late September at one home in Llanblethian, a TV, computer and laptop were stolen. In October, she told councillors, there had been two more similar burglaries.

She urged residents to watch out for anyone acting suspiciously, and to call the police in Cowbridge if they were concerned.

Other incidents that took place in the last month were: one theft from a motor vehicle where the door had been

left unlocked; one car that was scratched; three instances of anti-social behaviour — all taking place near or in the cattle market.

FOOD FESTIVAL
COUN Sue Cox, the council's representative on the committee organising the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival, reported that there had been great demand from exhibitors.

She told the council that, even though the list of exhibitors had been

finalised many weeks ago, applications from four or five suppliers a day were still coming in.

COMMITTEES
THE leisure and amenities committee has reported that the Vale Council has applied for funding to improve the footpath that runs from the town hall car park to the viaduct.

If successful, the surface would be tarmacked and edged, with new way markers and litter bins.

THE planning committee is to write to the Vale Council, asking that the sprung floor of the gymnasium in the lower school building should be reused somewhere else if possible.

The committee made the comments when the application by Taylor Wimpey to demolish the lower school building came before it.

THE finance and general purposes committee recommended that the council should purchase six 'town plaques'.

The total cost will be £240.

THE finance committee also recommended giving a grant of £50 to the Holy Cross Christmas Tree Festival.

The festival will run for three days, November 25-27.

It also recommended grants of £100 to help fund Cowbridge Comprehensive School's

Duke of Edinburgh scheme, and of £75 to Urdd Gobaith Cymraeg towards the running costs of its next event.

THE town hall committee recommended that the council accept a quote of £300 to replace lights designed to illuminate the town hall clock.

The council was told that the current lights are in a poor state of repair.

Councillors were also told that the town hall will stage a pantomime on Thursday, December 15.

Posters are to be distributed, and tickets will be sold from the town hall and David Barnes Dry Cleaners, and arrangements are being made to sell refreshments and ice cream.

Young crimper just misses out on a UK prize

A YOUNG hairdresser in Cowbridge has just returned from London, where she represented Wales in a UK-wide competition.

Charlotte Button, who is 20, and has been with the Eastgate hairdressers Fitch and Ramous for just over a year, qualified in the 'Student of the Year' — category after coming through a competitive semi-final in Bristol.

The final, organised by the Salon International Hairdressing Council, was held at the Excel Centre in London, and Charlotte was one of 16 competitors.

She told The GEM: "We were given to work with a model, who was already dressed and in full make up, and the task was to create a hairstyle that would go with the look."

"After we finished, we had a 10-minute interview with the judges, and we also had to show them a 'mood board' a collage showing how we had planned the model's hairstyle."

She said: "Unfortunately, I didn't win, but it was a fantastic experience."



ABOVE:
Young hairdresser
Charlotte Button.

Wonderful response

AT the Cymanfa Ganu held on October 16 at Saron Chapel, Treoes, both the lower and upper floors were packed with local residents and visitors.

Davina Harries Davies showed great enthusiasm and fine voice when conducting the Cor Meibion Dyffryn Tysi. Included in the programme were favourite Welsh hymns and the audience participation proved popular.

Guest soloist, Robert Ham (trumpet) is very well known in his home village of Treoes and in the Vale. Robert's accompanist was Mr Steven Burges.

The concert, in aid of Velindre Cancer Hospital, raised £2,000



COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is
Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd",
Llangan. (01656) 860303

and a donation of £100 was also raised for Saron Chapel.

A big thank you to everyone for their support, especially Mrs Christine Jenkins of Treoes, for arranging the concert, and Trish and Clive of the Star Inn, for providing refreshments for the choir.

Reminder
HALLOWEEN family special, October 29 from 5.30pm.

Traditional ghosties and ghoulies party at Treoes village hall with a prize for the best fancy

dress. Free admission.

Llama protector!
WHILE looking through my bedroom window at sheep grazing in a nearby field, I spotted an unusual object.

I discovered it was a Llama. He is a fine looking specimen called Lennox.

He is self-appointed protector of the sheep, chasing away foxes and dogs that dare to enter the field!

Lennox is owned by the Homfray estate.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D 693.

● The rollover, which now stands at £2,000, was not won this week.

● £2,000: 988419.

● £10: 359779; 809846; 708989; 542009; 690795; 249709; 552977; 203140; 822037; 467854; 981562; 784509; 183332; 714303; 102777; 463785; 693620; 153624; 444718; 313270.

● £5: 418196; 512252; 190841; 631250; 642350; 325804; 455212; 256093; 515610; 898345; 478319; 877381; 134445; 457753; 764424;

324739; 684189; 293261; 850672; 463146; 561866; 602342; 212745; 823323; 590868; 346322; 175277; 701712; 149974; 744588; 851885; 339479; 329556; 647380; 519557; 291248; 488877; 394045; 161218; 761444; 534836; 312875; 230395; 462240; 728464; 116885; 304333; 504069; 136639; 685870; 698589; 826137; 895869; 819091; 447193; 883670; 804196; 395419; 882375; 331603.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2067 2062.

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COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS ROUND-UP

Young tennis players are on their way to tournament semi-finals

COWBRIDGE boys under-16s tennis team took part in the quarter-finals of the Lawn Tennis Association South West British Tennis Championships against Sir Thomas Rich's school in Gloucester at the Oxstalls Tennis Centre.

Seed No 1 Matthew Kamal had a good game, however he lost 6 sets to 3 while seed No 2 Jonathan Humphreys, also had a good game but unfortunately lost 6-2.

It was better news for seeds 3 and 4, David Humphreys and Theo Mann, who both won their individual games. David won 6-2 and Theo won 6-4.

In the doubles matches, Matthew Kamal and Jonathan Humphreys lost 6-2, but David Humphreys and Theo Mann won their doubles 6-4.

This meant it was three games each so brothers David and Jonathan Humphreys played a doubles match with their second and third seed. It was first to 10 and in a nerve wracking game, Cowbridge won 10-6.

Cowbridge now go into the semi-final against Blackwell in North Somerset.

NETBALL

THE year-9 and senior netball teams faced Llantwit Major at home on October 17.

The seniors got off to a steady start against a strong Llantwit team with some outstanding interceptions from Imogen Harrison at goal defence, Bethan Sloan at goalkeeper and Caitlin Allin at wing defence, which kept Cowbridge in contention.

Lily Crane at centre

and Olivia Brooks at wing attack produced some excellent linking play and feeds into the circle to enable Mairi Boxall at goal attack and Katie Wynne at goal shooter to capitalise. The score was 6-6 at half-time.

Imogen Harrison left at half-time to attend under-18 county netball training and her height and expertise was certainly missed in defence.

Liz Whitehouse came on to wing attack in the second half and played exceptionally well, demonstrating why she was selected, alongside Caitlin Allin, into the under-16 county squad.

Molly Sander came on as goal shooter and again provided excellent attacking opportunities in the circle to keep Cowbridge in the game.

However, in the final stages of the game, Llantwit proved too strong for the Cowbridge team and the score finished 14-11 to them.

We will now probably face them again in the Presidents Cup, where the Cowbridge girls will surely be looking for revenge.

The year-9 Cowbridge team got off to an excellent start, securing the first three goals of the half.

Rebecca Thomas at goalkeeper, Hannah Lister-Sims at goal defence and Sally Gambling at wing defence, worked tirelessly to reduce Llantwit's possession and ensure Cowbridge could capitalise on their turnovers.

Ellie Hicks, who transferred from Llantwit to Cowbridge this year, gave the Llantwit team a glimmer

of what they had lost by playing excellently alongside Ellie Davies at centre on the edge of the circle.

Kim Jerwood at goal attack and Emily Davies at goal shooter, were then able to work the ball in much closer to the goal, which was needed against a very tall Llantwit defence.

The score was 8-4 to Cowbridge at half-time.

In the second half, Evie Williams came on to wing attack and Caitlin Jones on as goalkeeper and settled well into the game. However, the Llantwit team came out fighting and caught the Cowbridge girls off guard to secure the following four consecutive goals.

The Cowbridge girls showed great grit and determination and were able to re-compose and held out for a 10-9 win.

A positive result, but definitely room for improvement as we look forward to our next game against St Richard Gwyn.

Congratulations to Imogen Harrison in year-12 and Molly Williams in year-13 who have been selected into the Cardiff and Vale under-18 county netball squad.

Well done girls and good luck for the coming season.

HOCKEY

A MIXED year 9 and 10 girls hockey team played against Llantwit school.

In the first half, Izzy Eddy Williams showed her skills that she has developed at Bridgend hockey club by controlling the play.

Cowbridge were awarded two short corners which Evie Williams took and hit

out to Izzy Eddy Williams who scored two goals; there were many missed goals within the first half.

The first half Cowbridge defenders were swapped to become attackers and midfield in the second half.

Ellie Eddy Williams then dominated play with excellent back up work from Rosa Hartman and Millie Green; Hannah Gaskin capitalised on this attack and scored twice.

Player of the game Ellie Eddy Williams got the last goal for the team, the final score 5-0!

The senior team played Glantaf as their last warm-up game before county tournament begins.

Glantaf were after revenge following a 2-1 defeat during a home match at Cowbridge.

Within the first two minutes, Katie Howson scored a great goal off a short corner. The first half continued with Glantaf attacking.

However, the defence led by Bethan Moorcraft, Emily Hopkins, Lowri Davies and Laura Howells, kept the ball out of our goal. When Cowbridge did get the chance to attack, Katie Howson, Rachel Bradshaw and Molly Llewellyn showed superb skills in taking the ball down the pitch, but Glantaf's 'keeper wasn't letting in any more goals.

In the second half, Glantaf stole a goal back making it 1-1. Overall it was a good game and now Cowbridge are looking forward to the tournament after half term.

Player of the match was Katie Howson.

RUGBY

COWBRIDGE year-7 team got off to a slow start against Bro Morgannwg, and after a few tackles and mistakes, were 7-0 down after 10 minutes.

This lead was short-lived, as Ieuan Llewellyn scored a try in the corner, from a lovely pass down the blindside by Ioan Lewis.

After a tough fought half, with Bro Morgannwg competing extremely well at the break-down and around the pitch, the first half finished 19-7 to Cowbridge. The tries were scored by Rees Durlucia from a busting run, and by Max Cunningham, who finished off a sublime move where the ball was shipped from one side of the pitch to the other.

During the second half, Cowbridge raised their game and shook the cobwebs away from the first half. During the first 10 minutes, the team racked up another four tries, with Bevan Howells scoring two, and both Rhydian Williams and James David's A team.

In the first week there were group competitions. In group 1, Llansannor A team won the group followed by Pendoylan and St David's A team.

In group 2, Y Bont Faen came first, Llansannor B team second and St David's B team third.

In week 2, winner of group 1 played second in group 2, and winner of group 2 played second in group 1. So Llansannor A played Llansannor B. Llansannor A won 6 tries to 2.

At this time a number of changes were made. All the boys who came on during the second half filled the shoes of their replacements extremely well, and the remainder

of the match was a hard fought one.

Both teams were committed, and ran in one try each during the last 15 minutes. Cowbridge's try was scored by Jake Griffiths.

At the end of the game, the final score was 43-14 to Cowbridge.

This was a very good win for year-7, against a tough Bro Morgannwg team. Have a relaxing half-term and enjoy yourselves, get your batteries recharged for more tough games and training sessions in the cold, wind and rain (good times); well done again, boys.

Cowbridge Comprehensive PE department invited their Cluster Primary Schools to the comprehensive for a transition tag rugby competition. There were teams from Pendoylan, Bont Faen, and Llansannor, and St David's had two teams each.

The match started well with a goal in the first 10 minutes from Aaron Griffiths. The lead was extended to two with a powerful shot from Josh Peterson, leaving the goalkeeper with no chance.

MIHS did pull one back in the first half, with a long range effort which Charlie Martin just could not keep out.

With David Bear and Cai Evans producing lovely diagonal balls to the wings, Sean Davies and Josh Peterson created havoc down the flanks.

In the other semi-final, Y Bont Faen played Pendoylan - Y Bont Faen winning the match.

St David's A team played St David's B team for fifth and sixth place with St David's A team winning.

Pendoylan and Llansannor B team played for third and fourth place; Llansannor B team winning.

In the final Llansannor A team played Y Bont Faen, with Llansannor A team winning 9 tries to 6; well done to all competitors!

FOOTBALL

THE year-8 football team have joined the year-7s in the quarter-final.

The year-8 football team played their first match this Wednesday, in the first round of the Cardiff and Vale Cup against Mary Immaculate High School.

The match started well with a goal in the first 10 minutes from Aaron Griffiths. The lead was extended to two with a powerful shot from Josh Peterson, leaving the goalkeeper with no chance.

MIHS did pull one back in the first half, with a long range effort which Charlie Martin just could not keep out.

With David Bear and Cai Evans producing lovely diagonal balls to the wings, Sean Davies and Josh Peterson created havoc down the flanks.

The third goal came from a superb cross and volley from Josh Peterson and Aaron Griffiths, which looped over the goalkeeper into the back of the net for the goal of the game.

With the score at 3-1, the referee blew his whistle, and it was the end of the first half.

The boys started the second half where they left off in the first. A quick goal within the first five minutes, scored by Josh Peterson, extended the lead further.

MIHS came back with two goals of their own, with Charlie Martin making two brilliant initial saves, but with the ball bouncing straight to the oncoming strikers for an easy tap-in for both.

At this point in the game a number of substitutions were made. James Revers and Harrison Stevens came on to score two goals each, and Sam Lee came on to score one. Also in the second half, Josh Peterson finished off his hat-trick, with a cracking ball cross the face of goal from Jay Munn, who had worked tirelessly all game, which was placed into the bottom corner by Josh.

All of the team played extremely well, and the defence stayed united to keep their dangerous strikers at bay; well done boys.

Player of the match was Josh Peterson.

DINAS POWYS FC GRABS A VITAL THREE POINTS

THIS win should give Dinas a little more confidence in what was a hard fought game, with the visitors probably deserving a point but leaving their fightback too late.

Welsh League Division Two Dinas Powys 2 Ammanford 1

box, the ball deflecting to Jo Hinds who reacted quickly, but could only put the ball over the bar.

Half an hour into the game Dinas broke the deadlock when they were awarded a free-kick on the edge of the area. Mathew Trotman took it and when the ball fell for Liam Jeremy his accurate cross found Jo Hinds in plenty of space, and he made no mistake heading in from close range.

The visitors almost equalised within a couple of minutes and Dinas were grateful to keeper Dave Burnett who pulled off an excellent save to keep out a close range header.

Five minutes before half-time the home side doubled their lead when Will Penikett side-footed in at the near post, and once again it was Liam Jeremy supplying the cross from a corner.

Dinas could have got a third early in the second-half when Will Penikett headed over from a corner, but to their credit Ammanford came back strongly, Dinas' Mike Lewis heading one effort off the line and when Luke Fayres' thirty yard shot on the turn seemed to be going just inside the right hand upright, it took a diving save from Burnett to push the ball round the post.

Liam Jeremy had the beating of the Ammanford defence and when his mazy run past three players took him to the edge of the area, his shot deserved more than to be deflected clear.

The visitors continued to have the better of the second-half and got the goal their efforts deserved when substitute Oliver Ardolino lifted the ball over the advancing keeper.

Ammanford continued to press for the equaliser in the few minutes remaining but had left it a bit late and Dinas took the points that lifted them four places in the table.

This week Dinas play third place Croesyceiliog in what will be another tough test.

Squad: 1. Dave Burnett, 2. Steve Provis, 3. Mike Lewis, 4. Rhys Davies, 5. Mike Brooks, 6. Richard Yarr, 7. Ricki Morgan, 8. Will Penikett(1), 9. Jo Hinds(1), 10. Mathew Trotman, 11. Liam Jeremy. Subs: 12. Joe Briscoe, 13. Nicky Bruce, 14. Chris Lewis, 15. Damien Lack.

Next game: Welsh League Division Two, Saturday, October 29 - Dinas Powys v Croesyceiliog, kick off 2:30pm.

For further news and fixtures see the club's website: www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk.

MW

Tigers are looking good for new football season



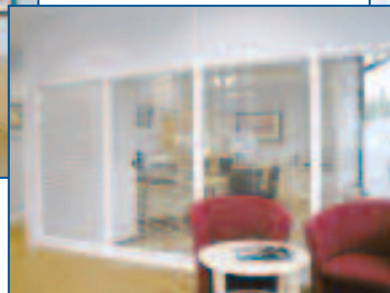
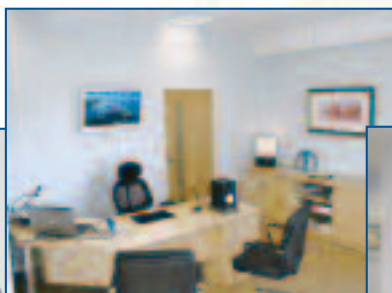
ABOVE:

One local junior team that is looking smart for the new season is Llantwit Major Tigers, pictured above in their new team strip, courtesy of sponsors Trade Point.



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For more information or to arrange your free appointment please call 02920 707760 or call in to Scott Wroe Hearing Centre, 1 Station Approach, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan CF64 3EE (Free parking opposite the shop).

News from PENARTH & DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Two walks in the autumn sunshine...

A S part of Woodland Walks Week, Geraint and his sheepdog Patch, and four walkers with dogs Timothy, Bracken and Bronte, left the Twyn in Dinas Powys on the journey up to the local golf club.

Crossing the fairway, they entered woodland which led them down to the stunning beech wood at the bottom of Cwm George where leaves were floating down as the autumn sunshine streamed through the branches.

Walking through Cwm George, with its steep cliffs at the top end, the group paused momentarily at the bench dedicated to Geraint's father, George Thomas, who began the Dinas Powys village walks many years ago.

At Park Wood was a stunning view of Cwrt-yr-Ala House, derived from the Welsh version of the Court of Raleigh, once owned by the de Reigney family, and then passing through marriage to the Raleigh family of Devon (related to Sir Walter).

Roadworks round-up

Severn Avenue, Barry – temporary traffic control. A48 near Aubrey Arms – temporary traffic control.

Port Road West from the junction of Colcot Road to Meggit Road, Barry – temporary traffic control.

Porthkerry Road, Rhose (from the roundabout near the Holiday Inn) to the unnamed lane to Porthkerry – temporary traffic control.

Port Road junction with Pencoeindre Lane, Barry – temporary traffic control. Frampton Lane, Llantwit Major – temporary traffic control.

PACT meetings

DYFAN PACT, 10am and 12 noon today (October 27) at Colcot Community Centre, Keats Way, Barry.

GIBBONS DOWN PACT, 10.30am on November 16 at the Residents Board Office, Coychurch Rise, Barry.

LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT, local leisure centre on November 8 at 7pm.

LLANDOUGH PACT, Llandough Memorial Hall on November 10 at 7pm.

Exiting from the wood, the group headed downhill to misty views across to Flat and Steep Holm and the English coastline before returning to the village.

Four walkers, and dogs Bracken and Bronte joined Val at All Saints Church the following day of woodland walks and headed downhill past the Gorsedd stones erected on the triangle when the National Eisteddfod was held at Romilly Park in 1920.

Crossing to Birch Grove wood, they followed the path through a series of man-made steps uphill, to emerge onto the green at Marine Drive where there were clear views across to Weston-super-Mare, Barry Docks, Cold Knap and the pebble beach below them.

They reached the sunken lane that runs to the rear of the Garden Suburb and turned downhill through Lover's Lane to reach the remains of Cliffwood Cottage, built in 1583 and later owned by Ann Jenkin, who allegedly was a witch.

Entering paths through Knockmadow Wood, they followed the road up to the Millwood, to pass the old ruined sawmill, and then crossing the Nant Talwg brook headed uphill through the estate to reach the top of Cwm Bari and make their return back to Park Road.

On October 29, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an 11-mile hard walk at Partrishow; contact Barrie on 029 2053 0753.

On October 30, meet at 9am at the Barry Waterfront for a 6-mile mod/hard walk at Blaencwm; contact Janet/John on 01446 418514.

Membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Breakfast with RNLI at Dinas

THE Dinas Powys branch of the RNLI is holding its annual 'Breakfast Roll' on Saturday, November 5 at the Lee Hall, Dinas Powys at 8.30am-11.30am, serving fruit juice, fruit bread, croissants and tea/coffee.

Tickets are available from committee members or at the door. RNLI Christmas cards and calendars will be on sale, and there will be a raffle.

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Food for thought

Showcase your menus and offers here...



HESTON DISTILLS HIS TIPS INTO A SMALLER TOME

by SARAH O'MEARA

HESTON BLUMENTHAL is the chef who sets the trends that filter down to the nation's restaurants and his innovative approach to cooking is de-mystified in his latest book *Heston Blumenthal At Home*.

If you want to see food through Heston Blumenthal's eyes, pop a biscuit in your mouth, pinch your nose and breathe in.

It won't taste of much, because flavour comes entirely via 'aroma molecules', he explained. But it's the kind of experiment that inspires his day-to-day cooking and has helped him to turn dining out into a quixotic art form.

In *Heston Blumenthal At Home*, the three-Michelin-starred chef attempts to lay bare his thought processes, without recourse to the epic commands contained in his seminal 532-page *Big Fat Duck Cookbook* of three years ago.

To recap, his bacon and ice cream mixture needed to infuse for 10 hours, then mature for another 10, before you poured on liquid nitrogen!

This time sizzling culinary facts - both technical and trivial - intermingle with easy-to-imitate recipes, mostly confined to one page of text.

"If you ask me for my guilty pleasure, it's prawn cocktail," said Blumenthal.

"When I was growing up in the Seventies, you could only get one type of pasta, and you could only get olive oil from chemists - but that's not to say there wasn't food from that era you didn't grow to love. For me, it's prawn cocktail.

"When I get home late, after working in the Fat Duck, there's nothing I like better than to raid the fridge for it.

"Being such an addict, I'm deeply resistant to attempts to muck around with the ingredients, but putting a little chopped basil and tarragon into the mix introduces some fresh, lively extra flavour; as does scraping the seeds from a vanilla pod and adding them to the mayonnaise.

"It's funny, as we think of vanilla as sweet, but if you chew a vanilla pod, it's as bitter as coffee."

Reading his cookbook, it's easy to get absorbed by his bold tactics.

Even if you do think spritzing Kirsch into the air to accompany your Black Forest gâteau, or smearing fan blades with a maritime scent to accentuate the flavour of your salmon dish, might be going too far.

"I'm a bit weird," admits Blumenthal, as he analyses why he

cooks in such extreme terms, and dreams up dishes such as snail porridge.

"We've got a psychometric test we do for staff, and I thought, 'I'll do it myself'.

"It tends to put people into two categories - creative or logical. I'm literally chalk and cheese. I'm left-handed with chopping and writing - in everything else, right-handed."

This could well explain how his madly creative impulses sit so easily alongside a love of rational, scientific exploration!

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VIRUS THRILLER MAKES FOR INFECTIOUS VIEWING

HAVING made his reputation with low-budget pieces such as *Sex, Lies and Videotape*, Steven Soderbergh's elevation to A-list director via *Of Sight and Erin Brokovich* was a pleasing surprise.

Since then, he has balanced mainstream fare, such as the *Oceans* trilogy, with the more cerebral and thought-provoking likes of the *Che* films and *Bubble*, with his latest film, *Contagion*, returning him to the ensemble-led sensibility of *Traffic*.

The film centres around the threat posed by a deadly disease as it afflicts the world, and the efforts of doctors to stop the virus, and features an all-star cast including Matt Damon, Kate Winslet, Jude Law, Laurence Fishburne and Marion Cotillard; but will they be able to stop it or will the world feel the full brunt of it...

Given that the global population has endured both bird flu and SARS in recent years, the timing of *Contagion* isn't bad going, particularly

the response to these diseases was panic on a large scale.

That being said, had the reaction been anything like the one in the film it would have made for an unsettling experience as *Contagion* ramps up the drama and tension, resulting in a film that serves as a stark warning to the dangers of disease and also man's desire to survive above all other things.

With its 'disaster movie of the week' set-up, screenwriter Scott Z. Burns does a pretty good job of steering it away from cliché, with no cuts to the President talking about how to manage the populace, no square-jawed hero trying to stop the virus, nor a cheesy set-piece in sight.

Instead, he concentrates on the human drama, veering from political discussion about the nature of the virus, what can be done to stop it and the costs involved, both financial and human, to the concerns of the man on the street, attempting to navigate a world struck by food shortages, to the people attempting to profit from the disease and its cure.

It is an intelligent screenplay that raises valid questions and offers possible solutions, rather than definitively ones, while similarly showing that even those in charge of solving the problem are fallible to the concerns of the human condition, Burns stressing at all times the effects of the disease both on the infected and the non-infected.

Steven Soderbergh could easily have chosen to go for spectacle in terms of his direction, but instead directs with an economy that opts for maximum impact, the lingering close-ups of door handles, glasses, a bowl of bar-room nuts both creeping you out and making you reach for the hand-sanitiser.

He also gives you a teasing glimpse into the way the world has crumbled post-virus, streets overspilling with litter as people in hazmat suits walk around, while shops and homes are looted as the world becomes a lawless society; if the meat weren't infected, the next step would almost certainly be men turning into cannibals, such is the level of disorder.

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

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He also marshals an all-star cast well, just about getting the balance between the multiple narratives, something he excelled at with *Traffic*, but losing some of the impact in the process.

Matt Damon is perhaps the most rootable character on show, a family man shorn of the majority of his family and trying to protect his daughter, make sense of

what is going on and come to terms with his grief. That the actor achieves this in a low-key performance is particularly impressive, but Damon doesn't have to carry the piece alone.

Jennifer Ehle's research scientist creates ripples with a strong performance that seemingly comes from nowhere, while Laurence Fishburne as the head of the Centre for Disease Control, captures the essence of a man doing his best for the world but also helping his family.

While Kate Winslet is suitably headstrong as a doctor on the front-line, Marion Cotillard is let down by a weak story strand that feels a little too out of sync from the rest of the film.

If Jude Law's aim was to make his activist blogger an annoying pain, then the actor is far better than I would give him credit for, but as it is, feels a little too forced, despite the character's importance in debunking the modern-day snake oil salesmen that pop up when situations like this arise.

However, in terms of creating fear and tension from a disease, the

film doesn't really put a foot wrong, the fear an all-too familiar one which plays on our natural concerns of survival; certainly once you've watched *Contagion* you'll be far more aware of coughs and sneezes than ever before...

VERDICT – A well-made film that will certainly strike a chord, *Contagion* is a film that focuses on fear and tension magnified through human concerns.

Achieving this through an unseen disease takes some doing, but Scott Z. Burns' script, strong direction from Steven Soderbergh and some well-tuned performances from the ensemble cast help to pull it off, in what is a stark warning as to the dangers of disease.

Recommended.
SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Traffic* (2000), *28 Days Later* (2002).

Laura in the running for Miss Cardiff



ABOVE: Llantwit Major's Laura Roberts has won a place in the final of Miss Cardiff. The 20-year-old student at Cardiff University, told *The GEM*: "People can support me by texting Laura Roberts to 81118. If I do win, I will undertake charity work and also become an ambassador for Cardiff 2012." The final takes place in Cardiff tomorrow, October 28.

DYSPRAXIA MEETING

THE next meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will be held on Monday, November 7 at 7.30pm in the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry.

The group supports children and young people with dyspraxia (as well as related conditions such as dyslexia, ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome, OCD,

Tourettes) and their parents and carers, by providing advice and information, as well as an opportunity to exchange experiences.

The Vale Dyspraxia Support Group operates a 24-hour help and advice line on 01446 738945 and a website, www.vds.org.uk and it also runs social activities and a laptop loan programme.

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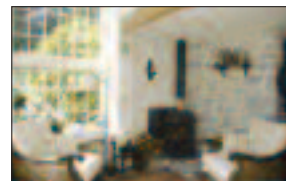


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NEW LLANTWIT MAJOR - £189,950



Modern well maintained three bedroom semi-detached house and attached garage with purpose built conservatory to the rear situated on the south side of town. Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Modern refitted Bathroom. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows and doors. Well maintained gardens to front, side and rear. Ref 624D

NEW LLANTWIT MAJOR - £195,000



Stone built terraced cottage located in the west end of town comprising Hallway, Living room, modern fitted Kitchen/Dining room, modern Bathroom, small En-suite, Two double bedrooms. Skilfully restored with gas fired central heating and double glazed windows and doors. Terrace garden to front, parking to the rear and further garden adjacent with greenhouse and lawn area. Ref 625D

NEW LLANTWIT MAJOR - £170,000



Established three bedroom end of terrace house occupying a corner position. Hallway, Lounge with patio doors to rear garden, Fitted Kitchen, Utility room, Cloakroom, Bathroom/WC. Double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. Paved driveway and parking to front and good size south facing rear garden. Ref 626D

ST ATHAN - £92,000



Modern three bedroom link house comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Dining Room with patio doors to rear, Bathroom/WC. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Utility Room. Open aspect to the front and enclosed rear garden. Freehold Ref 480D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £360,000



Three storey terraced family house built circa 1830 with original features stone fireplaces, beamed ceilings. Situated in a sought after area with spacious living accommodation comprising Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Utility Room, Shower Room, Three/Four bedrooms, Bathroom, Attic Room. Oil fired central heating. Parking and gardens. Freehold Ref 588D

BOVERTON - £177,500



Modern well maintained three bedroom detached house with integral garage comprising Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom/WC. Gas fired central heating. Double glazed windows. Driveway and well kept gardens to front and rear. Freehold Ref 564D No Chain

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £137,500



Modern two bedroom end of link house with attached garage comprising Reception Hall, Lounge, Modern fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas fired central heating. Driveway leads to the garage. Low maintenance gardens to front and rear. Freehold Ref 578D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £249,950



Modern established five bedroom detached house with integral garage situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Cloakroom, Family Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and ample parking. Garden to front, sides and rear. Freehold Ref 579D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £225,000



Well maintained established four bedroom detached house and attached garage comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom. Gas fired central heating. Double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and neatly laid gardens to front and rear. Freehold Ref 581D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £199,995



Detached four bedroom family house and garage comprising Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Dining Room, Lounge with sliding doors to rear garden, Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and garden to front and rear. Freehold Ref 592D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £269,950



Well maintained and presented modern four bedroom detached house with integral garage comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room with French doors to rear, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room, Cloakroom/WC, En-suite to two bedrooms, Family Bathroom. Double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. Driveway and garden to front and good size rear garden. Ref 594D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £176,000



Modern three bedroom semi detached house and garage situation in a sought after area comprising Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Dining area with French doors to rear garden, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom/WC. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. Good gardens to front and rear. Ref 598D

NEW PRICE LLANTWIT MAJOR - £287,000



Detached chalet style house situated on the south side with an open aspect to the rear. Recently refurbished throughout with quality fixtures and fittings. Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Dining Room, Cloakroom, En-suite to master bedroom, Luxury Bathroom. Garage is used for storage and leisure area. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows. Driveway and good size gardens. Ref 601D

BOVERTON - £137,500



Modern well maintained two bedroom semi-detached house with attached garage situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hallway, Well fitted Kitchen, Lounge/Dining Room with patio doors to rear garden, modern Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and neatly laid gardens to front and rear. Ref 605D

BOVERTON - £199,950



Established four bedroom semi-detached house which has been skilfully extended and modernised comprising Cloakroom, Sitting Room, Study, Modern fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Dining Room, Utility Room, Modern Bathroom. Double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. Driveway to the front and good size rear garden with open aspect. Ref 613D

NEW PRICE ST ATHAN - £119,500



Modern two bedroom end of terraced house situated at West Vale with planning permission for an extension and further consent for a separate three bedroom dwelling. Comprising Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom, Gas central heating. Double glazed windows. Open plan to front and good size garden to the side and rear. Ref 615D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £110,000



Modern well presented three bedroom end of link house comprising Hallway, Lounge, Modern fitted Kitchen/Breakfast room, Rear Hall, Cloakroom, open Utility area, Modern Bathroom. Staircase to Attic room with velux window. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows and doors. Garden to front and rear. Ref 622D

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Police puzzle over lack of consistency



ABOVE: Full back Jack Evans tries to break clear for the Police.
(Photograph by Gareth Davies.)

AFTER a bonus point win the previous week, beating Banwen 45-12, this performance must have left the coaches and players scratching their heads, thinking what had gone wrong.

The home side seemed in a confident mood and looked to attack from the kick off. Strong defence from the centre partnership of Hywel Roberts and Craig Gardner kept Cwmgrach out on the their visits into the Police 22.

CWMGRACH RFC 22
SOUTH WALES POLICE 16

The game started to turn into a scrappy affair, however, and poor decision making by the Police, followed by poor defence, saw the home take the lead with a converted try and penalty.

The Police did start to put a few moves together and a quick tap penalty by No 8 James Elton saw him force his way over for a try. Captain Ryan Miles added the extras.

This was a game the Police should have easily won but everything they did lacked purpose

and they surely will be disappointed with their performance.

Even more mistakes saw the home side go further ahead with two more tries, one converted.

The Police were kept in the game with Miles slotting over another three well-taken penalties to see them come away with a losing bonus point.

Craig Gardner's work rate throughout the game for the Police was a positive on the day

BS

ATHLETIC UNDER-11s CRUISE TO VICTORY

BRIDGEND Athletic under-11s played away to Bryncethin.

The home side kicked off and the Ath took control of the game right from the off, with Tom Anthony scoring a well taken try early on, which was converted by Connor Fabian to make it 7-0.

The Ath pressed from the restart and a dropped ball from Bryncethin allowed Tom Anthony to pick up and score his second of the game; Kasari Mehta converted to make it 14-0.

Megan Webb was next to score for the Ath after some good passing set her free. The conversion was missed, making it 19-0 to the Ath.

The Ath put more pressure on the home defence and were rewarded with Sion Vigus scoring the next try.

Connor Fabian converted to extend the lead to 26-0. Bryncethin were finding it hard to get out of their own half and the Ath managed to score another try, with Connor Fabian going over to score; Kasari Mehta converted to make it 33-0.

The Ath were winning some great ball and Louis King was next to crash over and score, Connor Fabian kicking the conversion to extend the Ath lead to 40-0.

The Ath were able to score the final try of the half through Sam Veasey after a great run from his own half.

Kasari Mehta converted to make it 47-0 to the Ath at half time.

The Ath kicked off the second half and Bryncethin did well to score a converted try early on to reduce the score to 47-7.

The Ath were then able to take control of the match with Sion Vigus going over for his second; Connor Fabian converted to make it 54-7.

More pressure from the Ath saw Dan O'Sullivan break tackles and crash over to score, with Kasari Mehta converting making it 61-7.

The final try of the match was scored by Kasari Mehta after he stole the ball well and Connor Fabian converted to make the final score Bridgend Ath 68 Bryncethin 7.

Squad: Thomas Anthony, Connor Fabian, Kasari Mehta, Ffion Revill, Megan Webb, Dan O'Sullivan, Sion Vigus, Sam Veasey, Jack Obbard, Jack Mustoe, Louis King, Brandyn, Gwilym John, Jack Jenkins, James Hermolle, Taine Waite, Teo Fillis, Charles Creffield, Daffydd Beech, Jamie Marshall, Josh Tidy, Thomas Reed.

BR

Pencoed FC under-14s win

PENCOED under-14s started strongly against Pen-y-Fai and in the first few seconds had a shot that went wide.

Mason Roach scored Pencoed's first after a good build up.

In the second half, a few changes were made and substitute Ben Clarke came on to score Pencoed's second goal.

Lloyd Cheesman got Pencoed's third goal with a lovely header, before adding a fourth.

CB



RHIGOS PORTHCAWL

12
15

THE Seaweeds got a vital win on the road at Rhigos, never an easy place to win, as outside-half Aled Davies did what Wales couldn't do, by kicking his goals from various areas of the huge Rhigos pitch.

Davies kicked Porthcawl into an early lead with a good penalty before the Rhigos attack got going and took the lead with a converted try for 7-3.

Davies kicked his second goal from near halfway for 7-6 and with the Porthcawl pack starting to get on terms, a home transgression at the ruck gave Davies the chance to seize the lead at 7-9.

However, not all was plain sailing as Porthcawl also showed

glimpses of poor tackling, and the home side got in front at 12-9 at the break.

Playing uphill in the second period was always going to be tough for the visitors, but with Rhigos falling foul of the referee with criticism of his calls, Davies was able to punch home the advantage to get back on terms at 12-apiece before again punishing poor discipline with his fifth successful penalty.

The Seaweeds came close to getting over the tryline with a couple of close shaves, but the tries went begging, and at 12-15, coach Kerry Townley was just glad to get the win on the board.

Lloyd Long and skipper Matt Davies were the pick of the Seaweeds pack, while Davies and Tevita were always thrusting for openings.

PF



ABOVE:
Lloyd Long being lifted by
Ian O'Keefe and Gavin Williams.

Under-15s work hard for win

PENCOED under-15s welcomed new opponents CRICC to the Woodlands on Sunday.

The boys battled hard in the first half, but failed to score a try, though nor did the visitors.

Things got more heated in the second half, and after some good defence, Lewis Brennan was able to score the first try of the day, followed by another from Rhys Brownell, which was converted by Chris Cooper.

The last try of the day went to Morgan Jefferies, and this was converted

by Alex King.

The CRICC pack gave the Pencoed team a good test, but were unable to get through the boys' attack and defence to score a try, and the game ended 19-0 to Pencoed.

Squad: Owain Clarke, Alex King, Chris Cooper, Lloyd Webb, Jordan Fox, Kristen Morgan, Lewis Brennan, Cole Lewis, Morgan Jefferies, Rhys Brownell, Scott Ewing, Daniel Maiden, James Merchant, Liam Bowen, Jamie Dyer and Ellis Griffiths.

JADE MAIDEN

Porthcawl RFC just glad to get the win

LEFT:

Sean Simmonds is double tackled.



CODE:
Pictures marked
'TW' by
TRACEY
WILLIAMS.

Picture marked
'JP' by
James Palmer.

LEFT:
Outside-half
Aled Davies,
who scored all
Porthcawl's points
with five penalties.

Cowbridge RFC push for victory

COWBRIDGE RFC travelled to Tonna last Saturday, one of four teams in the Neath Valley area in Division 5 South Central.

On a breezy, sunny afternoon, the first half was nothing to write home about. With the score at 3-3, Tonna took the lead with a penalty on the stroke of half time.

Cowbridge dominated up front but had little to show for it.

Half-time score Tonna 6, Cowbridge 3. Tonna soon extended their lead with a penalty and for a while the Cowbridge scrum were under pressure, but there were signs that if the backs got going then this game was there for the taking.

With Alun John replacing Dai Popham in the front row and Rhys Price and John Phillips forming a solid platform, the pack were now dominating and good rucking resulted in a Cowbridge penalty, expertly converted by

Lakin.

With the Cowbridge backs now finding holes in the Tonna defence, a third penalty by Lakin crept over to level the scores after 20 minutes.

Within minutes, Tonna had a chance to go back in the lead but the penalty hit the upright.

The pace of the Cowbridge backs, particularly from full back and the wings, was now beginning to tell on a tiring Tonna team and charging runs from the Cowbridge back row of Jac Williams, Steve Birchenough and Rhys Jones took Cowbridge into the Tonna 22.

From the resulting scrum half, Dewi Edwards provided good ball to Lakin, who timed his pass perfectly for centre Huw Lougher to burst through the Tonna defence to score a fine try under the posts, converted by Lakin.

With minutes to go, backs and forwards combined to great effect for centre Ilya Pellegrotti to sprint through the Tonna

tackles and put scrum half Edwards over under the posts, giving Lakin a simple conversion; a breathtaking end to the game, with a final score of Tonna 9, Cowbridge 23.

Well done to Cowbridge for staying positive after an awkward first half and coming up with the goods as the game progressed.

This Saturday we welcome South Wales Police to the Athletic Ground, kick off 2.30pm (keep up the great support), and the following week we travel to Wattstown for round two of the SWALEC Bowl competition; that'll be an interesting one as Wattstown were promoted from our league last season.

Just a reminder that the annual bonfire night will take place at the Athletic Ground on Friday, November 4; full details next Thursday.

RV/RK

Evan's Exeter winner

TROOPER CLARENCE was another winner for Llancarfan trainer Evan Williams at Exeter on Tuesday.

Well ridden by Adam Wedge, the seven-year-old, who was prominent throughout, won by three quarters of a length from Oceana Gold.

Knight Blaze, a 33-1 chance trained by David Brace at Bridgend, finished second to the long odds-on favourite Souldard in the three-horse opener.

My Brother Sylvest, who at one time was owned and trained by Mr Brace, was a winner for Somerset's David Pipe later in the afternoon.

Two other Welsh trainers, apart Williams, to have winners at the meeting were Lucy Jones and Peter Bowen. Lucy scored with Numen, who was landing a three-timer, and Peter won with Mumbles Pier, which beat its solitary rival, the odds-on Spring Moon by a neck.

BRIAN LEE

KENFIG HILL RFC RUGBY ROUND-UP

Mules' fightback is just too late!

KENFIG HILL Firsts played Cwmlynnfell, and it was the Mules' first visit to Parc-y-Bryn for several seasons and the end result was a disappointment.

The first 20 minutes were fairly even, with the Mules' defence dealing comfortably with the home attack. Kenfig Hill outside-half Rhodri Clark broke the deadlock with a well-struck penalty, but Cwmlynnfell replied almost immediately with a penalty by their outside-half Craig Jones.

Kenfig persisted in playing a kicking game which the home side relished, constantly running the ball back and the pressure finally paid off when centre Sam Hughes breached the defence to score.

This gave a half-time score of Kenfig Hill 3 Cwmlynnfell 8.

The second half continued as the first half left off with Cwmlynnfell playing the slope of the ground to their advantage, and their clinical finishing saw them score three more tries through right-wing Alex Wilkins, inside-centre Tom Manning and left wing Owen Williams, with Jones converting two.

This gave the home side a 27-3 advantage. Kenfig Hill changed tactics and started to keep the ball in hand and second row Thomas Maund finished off a slick handling move with a sprint to the line, Clark converting.

Centre Chris Tossell then powered over for a try, again Clark convert-

ing. Kenfig attacked from the drop out and some spectacular handling saw the final pass go to scrum-half Tom Briggs, who sidestepped his way over, Clark adding the conversion.

In a grandstand finish, winger Matthew Tossell was tackled into touch inches from the line after which the referee blew up for full time.

Final score: Kenfig Hill 24 Cwmlynnfell 27.

The referee named Shaun Burnell as man of the match for Kenfig Hill, with Ben Jones having a storming game in the second row. Chris Tossell again stood out at inside-centre.

The Kenfig pack played well as a unit against a Cwmlynnfell side known for their scrummaging prowess.

Congratulations to Matthew Tossell for becoming the proud father of a baby girl, the baby has yet to be named; we wish Matthew and partner Jerrie-Beth best wishes for the future.

KENFIG HILL
2nd XV
17
BRIDGEND
ATH 2nd XV
39

A DEPLETED Kenfig Hill second string put up a spirited performance against a strong Bridgend Athletic team at home.

The Mules starting line-up included four forwards in the back line and also saw a welcome return for winger Craig James, who filled in at scrum half.

The Athletic always held the edge in this well-contested friendly, though the half-time

score was 17 points each with both teams scoring three tries.

In the second half, with the wind at their back, the Athletic's kicking game kept the pressure on the Mules and three more unanswered tries were conceded before the final whistle.

Mules' man of the match: flanker Jason Davies.

Scorers (Kenfig Hill) – Tries: M Fitzgerald, D Dent and R Underhill. Conversion: J Steggles.

CORNELLY/ KENFIG HILL
YOUTH 3
TONDU YOUTH 33

Scorers: Lee Arrowsmith (1 try), Chris Stenner (1 try), Lloyd Bradley (three penalties, two conversions).

Another good win for the Mules

KENFIG HILL Firsts played Builth Wells, expecting a tough physical game against an established second division side.

From the start, the Mules stood up to the physical nature of the Builth team and their defence was more than up to the task, with Shaun Burnell playing centre prominent among the tacklers.

The Mules' attacking skills kept the away side on their toes, with winger Mathew Tossell and full back Raymond Evans making some telling runs.

The Builth gave away a series of penalties and outside half Rhodri Clark was successful with three of them. Builth replied with a penalty by their outside half Luke Offa.

This gave a half time score of Kenfig Hill 9, Builth Wells 3.

Kenfig broke the deadlock at the start of the second half when they ran the ball from their line and some slick passing saw the ball reach winger Ben Clarke on the half way line, and he sprinted past the Builth defence to go in under the posts, Clarke converting.

Builth then went over the line from a forward melee and Bill Morgan was credited with the touchdown, Offa converting.

Kenfig Hill came straight back and Matthew Tossell, who had taken over the kick-



New father Matthew Tossell about to sidestep his opponent.



Ben Clark crosses the line.



Pictures by PETER GILLING

Hooker Karl Davies on the charge.



Ben Jones on a run.

KENFIG HILL PLAY A REAL BLINDER!

KENFIG HILL AFC bounced back from their defeat against league leaders, Llantwit Major, the previous week, with an outstanding win at home against Blaenrhondda.

Kenfig Hill started off like an express train and scored a quick goal when a delightful free kick from Mike Tiffin found the youthful Jonathan Tossell on the edge of the box to dispatch a low drive into the back of the net.

Shaun Duffy and Jon Butler were winning the midfield battle and creating a number of chances, one of which fell to Gareth Duffy, who went on to fire a low shot into the corner of the goal.

Following this it was one way traffic, with Stuart Davies showing his class, after being out for most of the season with an injury, floating in two excellent corners which resulted in goals.

The first was by Shaun Duffy, who rose above everyone at the back post to head the ball into the top corner of the net.

For the second, Tony Pemberton, a player who is finding his feet this season in the amateur league, headed over

the keeper.

It was now 4-0 after 25 minutes, and with everyone wanting to score, Kenfig started to lose their composure.

However, just before half time Stuart Davies, again showing why he is the club's all time top scorer, left players in his wake before blasting the ball passed a stranded keeper.

The second half continued in the same mould with Kenfig pressing at every opportunity, forcing Blaenrhondda to defend for long periods.

However, Kenfig Hill missed a number of goal scoring chances by over elaborating or shooting when it would have been easier to pass to someone in a better position.

The score line was increased when a Tossell shot was blocked on the line and Shaun Duffy nipped between two defenders to score his second from a very acute angle.

At this point the game lost its shape, but to their credit, Blaenrhondda never gave up and were rewarded by scoring a fantastic goal from 25 yards to make the final score 6-1 to Kenfig Hill.

This Saturday, Kenfig Hill are away to Llantwit Fardre and although they have a few players missing, they hope to have Gavin Kinsey, Mathew Davies and Hayden Lau back for the game.

PHOENIX GRIND OUT A VICTORY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 48)

Phoenix pressure at the scrum then brought a kicking opportunity for Mullen to increase the lead to 10-0 in the 75th minute, and effectively seal the match.

This was a hard fought win for Phoenix, based on a solid scrum and lineout, skipper Marina Newth again leading by example. In probably her best game to date for Phoenix scrum half Louise Jones was named player of the match.

Phoenix now have a three week break before returning to league action at Gorseinon on the 13th of November.

Pencoed under-15s earn win

PENCOED under-15s faced Nantaffyllon recently.

The match kicked off with a try from Aled Bargery that was successfully converted by Alex King.

Nantaffyllon fought back with their own try, but were knocked back again when new boy Patrick Canham got his first try of the season.

Pencoed made a few changes in the second half to accommodate the large pack, which put them in a good position.

After another blistering run down the field, Patrick Canham was able to score his second try.

Nantaffyllon tried to catch up with Pencoed,

but their defence was too strong, and Pencoed's James Merchant was able to score the last try of the day.

The final score was 22-5 to Pencoed, and the coaches picked Patrick Canham as their man on the match.

Squad: James Merchant, Owain Clarke, Morgan Jefferies, Rhys Brownell, Aled Bargery, Jacob Charles, Daniel Maiden, Jac Briggs, Joe Watkins, Jonny Clatworthy, Chris Cooper, Alex King, Jordan Fox, Jamie Dyer, Patrick Canham, Ellis Griffiths, Lewis Brennan, Jayke Broker, Lloyd Webb, Cole Lewis and Scott Ewing.

JM

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Family Notices

Rob Mallett
Christine would like to thank all her family, friends and customers for their kindness and support during this sad time. We were overwhelmed by all the cards and messages of sympathy received. Special thanks to Dr O'Hanlon and Dr Jemmett and all medical staff, and to Mr Andrew Thomas of Thomas Brothers.

HELMORE
Adrian Charles
of Wyndham Crescent, Bridgend 1957-2011
Elaine & family would like to thank all members of the Llantwit Major and Le Poulguen Twinning Associations and friends for the many expressions of sympathy and cards of condolences received following our recent sudden sad loss of a most beloved husband, dad & special grandad. Special thanks to all who gave of their time to attend Adrian's funeral at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Also for the generous donations in lieu of floral tributes to Cancer Research UK.

WILCOX
Ronald Sidney
Suddenly but peacefully Ron S. Wilcox of The Knap, Barry, formerly Dinas Powys Butcher. Devoted husband to Barbara, outstanding father to Lynn, Gareth & the late Nick, father in law to Jeanette, Toni & Tim, wonderful grandad to Corrina & partner Becci, brother to Malcolm (& Pauline) Stuart (& April) & the late Gwennie. Enquiries to A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry. Tel 01446 735400.

LLEWELLYN
John
Sadly passed away after a short illness. Much-loved husband of Carol, father and grandfather. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.
Funeral Tuesday, 1 November at 11.45am at Llanblethian Church, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm. No flowers by request, please, but donations gratefully received for Llanblethian Church.

JENKINS
Rebecca
Peacefully on 22 October, aged 102, formerly of Llanblethian. Dear sister and aunt and much loved nanny of her former charges.
Funeral service at St John Baptist Church Llanblethian on Wednesday, 2 November 2011 at 1pm followed by interment.
Family flowers only, donations in lieu made payable to Heathfields, 27 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend, CF31 3NN.

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Public Notice

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 • Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2011/00940/CAC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Demolition of rear single storey garage
Location/Leoliad:	102, Stanwell Road, Penarth
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Penarth

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhedredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2011/00942/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Retention of new doors to rear and front.
Location/Leoliad:	71, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00983/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Like for like repairs to fine painted plasterwork; decorative and plain lime plaster; silk lined wall panels; floor joists and boarding; oak panelling; traditional and contemporary paint schemes.
The installation of a lift between ground and second floor for disabled access; the reconfiguration of an emergency escape stair (circa 2008) both in an area identified and prepared by enabling works carried out under a previously approved LBC application.
The removal of modern partitions to the porch to restore the original proportions of the room; the renewal of existing fire doors and screens across principal corridors and the upgrading of existing doors to achieve current Building Regulations with regard to spread of fire.
Upgrading of existing services to meet current requirements and regulations.
Dyffryn House, St. Nicholas

Location/Leoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig
Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00987/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Removal of existing sunroom, to be replaced with garden room as amendment to previous approvals 2011/00474/FUL & 2011/00484/LBC. Replacement windows to first floor rear elevations.
East House, 18, Eastgate, Cowbridge

Location/Leoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig
Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/01021/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Application for the relocation of a farmstead including the construction of six steel portal-framed buildings to be used to house suckler and their calves, finishing beef cattle, grain storage, straw storage, grass and silage storage, machinery storage and biomass boiler
Pen Cwn Farm, Llancarfan

Departure from Development Plan / Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00952/OUT
Proposal/Cynnig: Outline Application - with all matters reserved for a Family Self Care Bungalow
Hazelwood, St. Andrews Road, St. Andrews Major, Dinas Powys

Location/Leoliad: Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Dated / Dyddiedig: 27 October, 2011
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

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Past captains come together

Special occasion at local club's annual gathering

IT was a very special occasion at RAF St Athan Golf Club when 2011 club captain BJ Hawkins welcomed past captains to join him at their annual gathering.

This year saw a record 25 past captains attend the event; 18 of them managing to play in the 18 hole golf competition before 'donning' their captains' jackets and ties for the dinner and presentation.

With BJ chairing the evening at the head of the table, and the immediate past captain Ade Hawkins at the bottom, the others were seated in order of

seniority on their year of captaincy, the earliest being Dan Archer who took the helm in 1979.

It was an honour for the existing members to once again welcome their counterparts; who for various reasons, including ill health and living out of the area, are restricted in their attendance at the club.

Club caterer, Leanne Gordon did the captain proud, providing a sumptuous three-course meal which was enjoyed by everyone while reminiscing with old and new friends.

The senior past captains proved their memories are still

intact, recalling the club's history and their own antics in bygone years.

Mike Hurry (1985 captain) was jubilant in winning the golf trophy, beating Gwyn Favell on count back with a well deserved 37 stableford points.

Mike made an emotional speech stating that "...to me this trophy is one of the most prestigious to win", a sentiment felt by the majority.

The evening culminated with 'absent friends' being remembered and good wishes being passed between everybody present, all agreeing that they are looking forward to next year.



Mike Hurry.

RAF St Athan is proud of its history; a members' club which caters for green fee players, but particularly welcome new social and playing members; please feel free to visit or phone 01446 751043 for further information.

CM



Dan Archer and BJ.

The Cowbridge under-11s secure a double triumph

COWBRIDGE under-11s hosted two teams, St Joseph's from Cardiff, and local rivals Porthcawl.

First up were St Joseph's, and Cowbridge got off to a flying start with a try by Reuben straight from Evan's kick-off.

This try set the tone for the entire game with Cowbridge tries coming thick and fast. The try count reached five by the end of the first half, with Reuben adding another, and Barny, Lewis and Ioan joining him on the scoresheet.

All tries were well executed and stemmed from Cowbridge's aggressive defence and some quick turnover ball supplied by the forwards and slick passing by the backs. Lewis's try was notable in that it was the first time the boys have scored a try from a charge down.

The second half saw more of the same, with some excellent handling skills on display from the backs and strong running from the forwards.

The first try in the second half came from a well-rehearsed backs move, resulting in Ed Lewis scoring in the corner.

Then came the strong running from the forwards with Jack scoring a great individual try and Ben crossing for two late tries. Ioan converted all nine tries, making the final score 63-0.

COWBRIDGE UNDER-11S 42 – PORTHCAWL UNDER-11S 7

The weekend's second

game saw Cowbridge take on local rivals Porthcawl.

Porthcawl started the game with some aggressive straight running but came up against a resolute Cowbridge defence.

In fact the game's first try came from deep inside the Cowbridge 22 as Ben followed up a strong tackle, with a good turnover and some excellent running, creating an overlap for Evan to run half the length of the pitch to score in the corner.

More hard running from the forwards set up the game's second try for Tom to score his first try of the season. The half's last try came from a well-rehearsed backs move resulting in Barny scoring in the corner.

The second half started as the first finished with the Cowbridge pack rumbling up the field, and a quick tap penalty resulted in Barty scoring.

However, Porthcawl did not let their heads drop and continued to tackle well and put Cowbridge under pressure. A break out from their own 22 and some weak Cowbridge defence allowed Porthcawl to score their opening try of the match.

Cowbridge fought back and finished the game strongly with both Barny and Ben completing the scoring. Tom converted all six tries, resulting in a final score of Cowbridge 42, Porthcawl 7.

The unbeaten season continues, well done boys, keep up the great work and free flowing rugby!

GJ

Lions' team through to the final!

LLANTWIT Major JFC under-14s travelled to Somerset, representing Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions in the prestigious Lions Club international 5 nations youth football tournament.

Llantwit started the game well, maintaining a high tempo and Frome were grateful for their excellent keeper who made a series of saves to keep the score at 0-0.

However towards the end of the first half Frome used the strong wind to their advantage scoring directly from a corner and with a finely struck free kick from 30 yards out.

A Kristian Jones volley between the Frome goals kept Llantwit in touch at 2-1 at half time.

After the break, with the wind at their back, the Llantwit boys laid siege to the Frome goal but a combination of poor finishing, good goalkeeping and the woodwork kept them out.

As the minutes ticked

by the Frome players grew in confidence and they defended superbly well while always looking dangerous on the break through their strong running centre forward.

The Llantwit players did not panic and were eventually rewarded when Ashford Thomas turned in a corner to level the scores.

It looked like extra time but one last Llantwit attack found Kristian Jones in space in the box and he drilled the ball home to send Llantwit into the South West area final.

The game was an excellent advert for junior football with both teams playing with great skill, determination and sportsmanship.

The Llantwit players, officials and supporters would like to thank the Lions Club of Llantwit Major and Cowbridge for their sponsorship, and to the Lions Club of Frome and Frome Collegians football club for the warm welcome and generous hospitality.

PC

Pentyrch's late rush is harsh on under-9s

A LOVELY sunny morning saw Cowbridge visit Pentyrch – traditionally stiff opposition.

Cowbridge split their squad into two teams, each playing a full game, then half a game for the third period.

Jay opened the scoring apparently with a fine try and Cowbridge held this lead to the break.

Pentyrch went over in the corner to open their account before Jay spun out of a tackle to his second. Cowbridge ended the first period 2 – 1. Both teams had defended and attacked very well.

The next period of play saw much more open rugby, characterised by Cowbridge moving well with the ball but missing some first up tackles, allowing Pentyrch to score or gain field position too easily.

Despite the mistakes, Cowbridge matched Pentyrch try for try almost through the period.

Jay crossed for his third of the day, followed by a strong run in from Dewi and some fantastic finishing from Oliver. The team went into the break 4-3 down over this period.

The second half was almost a carbon copy of the first. After conceding an early try to Pentyrch, James finished off an

excellent period of attack by Cowbridge.

Cowbridge defended better, conceding only two further tries. Scores from McKinley followed by two from Jack brought the game back level at 7-7.

Cowbridge then took a slim one-try aggregate lead into the final period of play, leading 9-8.

A strong Pentyrch team took to the field and, despite some good attacking moves and strong defence, Cowbridge failed to score.

Pentyrch were running some very good angles and were able to run in tries out wide. They eventually crossed the line a total of five times, giving a flattering score line of 14-9 for the day.

The Cowbridge squad however is showing a big improvement in its ability to pass and tackle.

Final score: Pentyrch 14 Cowbridge 9.

Squad: Jay Downes, David Harris, Harri Howkins, Oliver Jarman, Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Jack Reilly, Harry Whittaker, Jake Williams, Rhys Williams, Iwan-Thomas Bartle, Sam Coates, Griff Ford, James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, Tom Johnson, McKinley Parsons, Tom Pugh, Dewi Williams.

GW



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Honours even for the Saints

SAINTS saw their 100 per cent record come to an end after this thriller.

Saints were 3-0 up and cruising but blew the advantage as Athleticco came back to draw the game in dramatic fashion.

Saints came into this game missing five key players through injury or suspension but started more brightly, Athleticco struggling to break down their impressive passing display.

Saints were rewarded early on when Phil Morgan was pulled back in the box for a penalty, but Leigh Lewis saw his spot kick well saved.

The onrushing Morgan quickly pounced on the rebound and also had his low strike saved, but the ball fortunately fell to Lewis' feet, who tucked the ball in from close range.

Athleticco hit back and searched for a leveller and looked to have the chance when their forward was brought down by Gareth Richards, but he made amends by saving the resulting penalty.

Saints soon doubled their lead as Nicky Cox's inch-perfect pass to Phil Morgan was passed onto Leigh Lewis, who raced onto the ball to fire low across the keeper.

With Athleticco clearly rattled, Saints continued to dominate and began

Athleticco FC Sunday Saints

the second period just as well.

The partnership of Morgan and Lewis again combined with a successful result as Morgan flicked the ball on to the advancing Lewis who found space along the flank.

Lewis then squared the ball back to Morgan, who calmly slotted home Saints' third.

Saints were dictating the game and restricting the home side to long shots and wayward passes, but then Saints took their foot off the gas and Athleticco worked their way back into the game.

Fifteen minutes into the half Athleticco managed their first after the ball fell to one of their striker's feet inside the box from a corner.

Athleticco got right back into the game from the penalty spot.

After a goal mouth scramble Saints' full-back Rob Collings was adjudged to have handled an incoming shot to prevent it cruising into an open goal. The Athleticco forward made no mistake from the spot.

The turning point came in a controversial incident.

Morgan, moments before, had been rightly booked for a hard tackle, but when Saints had a throw in on the far side

the referee deemed that Morgan had taken too long over the throw and booked him for a second time, resulting in a red card.

Even with some heroic defending from the Saints' back four, notably from Rob West and Nicky Cox and a couple of continued quality saves from Richards, Saints were finally undone.

After continued pressure from Athleticco, they finally managed to squeeze the ball into a crowded Saints' box and, with an element of luck, but also calmness, the ball landed at their forward's foot, and he managed to drive it along the floor through the smallest of gaps in the defence.

Honourable mentions go to Rob West, Nicky Cox and Gareth Richards as well as debutant Dave Gellard, Reece Lewis and Phil Morgan; but man of the match went to Leigh Lewis for two goals and an assist and constantly being a threat to the home defence when he got the ball.

Saints FC: Richards, Collings, Morgans, Cox (c), West, Charles, Gellard, R Lewis, Bowring, L Lewis, Morgan; Subs: Stretton,

3
3

Raiders win Barn petanque club 'open'

RECENTLY, the Barn Petanque Club held its inaugural open triples competition.

As the playing area is limited a total of eight teams contested this event, with participants coming from Cardiff, Wenvoe, Penarth, Caerleon, Brecon and Llanhennek.

The morning was played in two pools of four teams, with timed games to ensure that all the players could take lunch together.

From the morning results the teams were ranked for their places in the Cup quarter-finals, with the afternoon games not time limited.

The four winning teams progressed to the Cup semi-finals and the losing teams to the plate semi-finals.

The four teams contesting the Cup were the Wenvoe Raiders, Les Dames Celtiques, Arfechog and All Mixed Up, and the four teams contesting the plate were French Connection, Derek's Team, Three Degrees North and The Nicholls.

All the semi-finals were well contested games with Wenvoe Raiders and All Mixed Up, a team from the Barn, progressing to the Cup final and French

Connection, a team from Penarth, and Derek's Team, another team from the Barn, playing in the plate final.

The losing semi-finalists all played in bronze final matches to determine which teams were third in each competition.

In the Cup final, Wenvoe Raiders took control in the first end and cruised to a 13-6 victory; by comparison the Plate Final was a much closer game.

Derek's Team took an early lead, but French Connection clawed their way back into the game to finally go down 13-8.

Les Dames Celtiques were third in the Cup, and Three Degrees North third in the plate.

Each of the Cup winners received a bottle of wine and a voucher for a meal and drinks at The Barn, the Plate winners received a bottle of wine each and the runners-up in each competition received chocolates.

All the participants expressed their thanks to the organisers of the competition and to Lyn Babbage, manager of The Barn, for the superb buffet lunch.

They also said they looked forward to the event being held next year, with two teams booking their places in advance.

JWS

Quarter-final success for Barry RFC under-14s

FIFTEEN of South Wales' best teams converged on St Peter's, Cardiff for the invitation 12-a-side tournament.

Drawing Pontyclun, Abergavenny and Treorchy in their pool, the Barry boys started well and put Pontyclun away with a 33-0 victory over a side that they lost to at the end of last season.

Barry's approach to sticking to the basics served them well with their second encounter of the day against unknown opposition Abergavenny.

The Monmouthshire side looked more like a youth team than an under-14s, but they were taken by surprise by the well-drilled, talented Barry boys.

Some questionable refereeing decisions led to a 12-12 draw and Barry's progress in the tournament came down to the last game.

Treorchy had knocked Barry out of the Blues Cup quarter finals last year, soundly beating them by 40-12. However, Barry were not phased and ran in two tries to Treorchy's one to

reach the quarter final draw and exact revenge.

Barry took on much-fancied Penclawdd in their quarter final draw and despite their reputation, Barry camped down in their 22 for much of the first half.

However, teams cannot afford to be in the red zone and not come away with points and Penclawdd, against the run of play, ran in two tries with some blinding runs from their left wing.

Barry were then hit by an injury to centre/winger Lloyd James who was taken off with a broken collar bone early in the second half and despite some sterling work by the 12 remaining players, they couldn't claw their way back into the game.

Final score Barry 5, Penclawdd 24.

If you are an experienced rugby player and are looking to join Barry RFC under-14s, contact Ioan Evans on 07764256428.

IE

Barry Atoms beat Dinas

THIS was a great game played with true spirit.

Dinas showed their intent from the off, scoring a try from the start which then stung Barry into action.

Barry soon scored to level and then it was nip and tuck seeing Barry

run out eventual winners 4 tries to 3.

In a game that really was end to end, the tackling and team work showed by both sides was a joy to see.

What was pleasing is how team spirit was showed by Barry; it's only a couple of months since the transition from tag to contact but the

boys are adapting well.

Try scorers: D.Griffiths (2), J.Couch, J.Reid.

Squad : Z.Fifield, E.Galsworthy, C.Denbury, R.Rendell, D.Wall, J.Parry, O.Llewellyn Smith, T.Pugh, F.Samad, F.Giosanou, I.Escott, J.Jones.

RR

Sea View Lads results

THE lads have enjoyed some good results recently, notably four club members in the top 11 at the recent Seamaster competition!

Paul Crook was second overall with a cod and dogfish, picking up £150 for his efforts, while Aida Harris and Richard Lougher were in the top ten with Kevin Gardner in 11th place - well done lads!

A recent trip to Llangennith saw all but one land the elusive golden grey mullet, flounders and, for the lucky ones, even bass!

The top three anglers all landed over 20lb of fish each, only one person blanked.

Mixed shore results have seen too many blanks but we expect the weights to increase with the arrival of the rays.

Results: Sunday, September 25: First, Mickey Langford - 4lb

02oz, (conger, LSD); Second, Aida Harris - 1lb 14oz; everybody else - blanked.

Sunday, October 9: First, Mickey Langford - 27lb 14oz (golden greys, flounders); Second, Richard Bond - 24lb 07oz (golden greys, flounders); Third, Aida Harris - 21lb 03oz (golden greys, flounders); Fourth, Steve Davies - 12lb 14oz (golden greys, flounders); Fifth, Chicken Wing - 08lb (golden greys, flounders, bass); Sixth, John Jones - 07lb 00oz (golden greys, flounders);

Heaviest bag: Mickey Langford - 27lb 14oz (14 golden greys, eight flounders).

Sunday, October 16: First, Jody Velda - 11lb 12oz; Second, Micky Langford - 07lb 04oz; Third, Lee Thompson - 05lb 08oz; Fourth, Steve Doble - 03lb 04oz.

JC

Bees show off their fitness

A DEPLETED Barry Bees under-9s travelled to Penarth.

The home team had the luxury of rotating players from a large squad, while Barry had no substitutes.

Penarth ran in three quick tries and this seemed to galvanise the Bees, who responded well with a couple of good scores.

Defence was the issue however, and the home team led 5-2 after the first quarter.

Given the strength of the Penarth squad it was looking very ominous, but showing great determination the Bees began to force the pace and took the game to Penarth for the remainder of the match.

The final score was 15-13; strong running Cole Saunders ran in eight tries, with Jake Lang, Reece Lloyd and Isaac McBride also forcing their way over, with two penalty tries.

Overall, a great display of rugby from all.

JM

Tim 'Revs It Up'

REV It Up trained at Aberthyn by Tim Vaughan landed the TotePlacePot Maiden Hurdle (Div 2) at Chepstow last Saturday.

An 8-1 chance, five-year-old Rev It Up, ridden by Richard Johnson, had a length to spare over the 5-4 favourite Dualla Lord trained by champion trainer Paul Nicholls.

Johnson went on to ride a hat-trick scoring on Fingal Bay and Arthurian Legend who are both trained by Phillip Hobbs.

Meanwhile, SoHappyHarry, a five-year-old chestnut gelding owned and bred by Mrs Sue Mathias of Llancarfan and trained by her permit holder daughter Jane, caused quite a surprise last week at Ludlow when coming home four-and-a-half lengths ahead of the long odds-on favourite Lava Lamp trained by leading National Hunt trainer Evan Williams, who just happens to be a neighbour of the Mathias family.

SoHappyHarry, who was confidently ridden by Irishman Donal Fahy, was returned at odds of 7-2 in a field of just four runners. Williams had some consolation when his River Rhapsody won the next race and then again when in the final race of the day his

Sublime Talent forced a dead-heat with the favourite Esporado.

Tom David, who has left Tim Vaughan's Aberthyn yard to ride for Shrewsbury's Shelia Crow, landed a 33-1 winner Foreign King for Mike Hammond.

TIM'S FAKENHAM HAT-TRICK

Hat-trick king Tim Vaughan has done it again!

At Fakenham on Friday he scored with My Moment, Bottman and Saute My Moment, a 7-2 shot, who beat the favourite Court Red Handled by three lengths in the Handicap Chase.

Bottman came home eight lengths ahead of the favourite, the Evan Williams trained Get It On, in the Novices' Chase and the top weighted Saute won by six lengths from Smack That in the handicap hurdle.

BRIAN LEE

Mark picks up reigns at Dinas

MARK Dunford has been appointed as manager of Dinas Powys FC.

Mark currently plays for Dinas Powys in the Welsh League and has vast experience at this level, having previously played for Pontardawe, Maesteg Park, and Goytre Utd; he will combine his playing career with managing the side.

Phil Clay has been in temporary charge and will remain as assistant manager, and the club would like to thank Phil for his excellent work in the interim.

Also joining the club as assistant is Matt Boyd-Anderson, formerly with Fairwater FC in the South Wales Senior League.

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05 55 CITROEN Picasso 1.6 Desire 2. In navy blue, with grey interior, air con, electric windows, central locking, tow ball, one owner, service history, ideal family car, only 62,000 miles **£3,995**



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- 09 09 FORD Galaxy 1.8 TDCi Edge** in silver with black interior, privacy glass, air con, immobiliser, 7 seats, service history, only 42,960 miles **£12,795**
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AUTOMATICS

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Land Cruiser has evolved

THE Range Rover is the longest-established luxury 4x4... Right? Wrong! It was launched in 1970, but the Toyota Land Cruiser was actually introduced 19 years earlier.

This came as quite a surprise to me. Admittedly, there have been quite a few different versions starting off with the rugged Jeep-like open top AK in 1951 - in fact I was the proud owner of a remote control version when I was younger.

The BJ and FJ models, from 1951 to 1955, followed. Over time the Land Cruiser has evolved to become an ultra-luxurious, highly capable off-roader and the current 200 series was launched in 2008.

In recognition of its 60 years in production, Toyota has introduced a special 60th anniversary model, available in either 3-litre diesel or 4.5-litre V8 versions.

The 3-litre model tested comes complete with triple-zone climate control air conditioning, Toyota's Easy Flat rear seat system with third row seats (powered), leather upholstery, HDD navigation system, multi-terrain Select system, Crawl Control, and JBL 17-speaker premium audio.

Oh, and did I mention the cool box underneath the central armrest in the front? It's not far off the size of a mini fridge and operates in conjunction with the air conditioning.

The Land Cruiser is a gargantuan beast. It seems to dwarf other vehicles considered to be competitors such as those 'Chelsea tractors' from Mercedes and Volkswagen.

But it is much more than just a bit of eye-candy, it has been built for a proper purpose. Toyota is targeting affluent and demanding



ABOVE: The new Toyota Land Cruiser.

owners who require a vehicle that's smart enough to be parked outside their offices (which they'll probably also own), can happily tow their boats and trailers and off-roads to its heart's content.

Parkers, the car experts, write that it is "amazingly capable in difficult terrain". A vehicle for farmers or property developers perhaps - those who don't want to appear too flamboyant and have a bit of taste... From the outside it is perhaps a little staid but it certainly doesn't blend into the background.

I particularly like the boot, because it can either open as a complete door for easy loading or, if something light like a gym bag needs to be thrown in, the glass can be opened separately. The rear wiper is neatly concealed, too.

It's no surprise to learn that the Toyota Land Cruiser is so popular in the Middle East with Sheikh's who drive these uncomplicated beasts through sand dunes in the baking desert for a bit of fun.

Inside the Land Cruiser are luxurious black leather seats and such a high driving position that useful side steps are provided to easy entry.

There's a bit of wood effect too on the steering wheel and door inserts, which is a nice touch.

Equipped with five-speed auto-

matic gearbox and cruise control, it is capable of returning around 30mpg.

Initially, it feels a little bulky but it doesn't take long to really warm to it. In a past life I used to horse ride and sitting so high up reminds me of those days - the commanding driving position giving a great sense of security.

It's an intimidating brute too, other drivers moving into the centre lane of the motorway when they see it in their rear view mirrors. It happily cruises at the national speed limit.

The week of the test was a challenging time on Britain's roads, heavy congestion delaying my daily commute.

One particular challenge was presented when an oversized mobile home was being transported on the back of an oncoming lorry. All the traffic had to move onto the pavement to make way - the Land Cruiser making very light work of this task.

"Off-roads that are truly capable off-road are becoming harder to find with most 4x4s designed primarily for tarmac roads than muddy tracks," says Parkers.

"But the Land Cruiser sticks to its traditional roots as a vehicle that has the ability to go pretty much anywhere."

"On difficult terrain it's hugely impressive, helped by sophisticated and genuinely useful off-road systems, allowing it to tackle seemingly impassable ground."

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The 3-litre diesel Land Cruiser 60th anniversary is priced £49,950 and the Land Cruiser V8 60th Anniversary at £61,950.

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TIM SAUNDERS



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52 06 VAUXHALL Astra SRI, 1796cc, 5-dr hatchback. Metallic silver, a/c, radio/cd, fsh, remote central locking, 80k.....£3,695



04 FORD Focus 1796cc Zetec 5-dr hatchback. In blue, radio/cd, a/c, remote central locking, fsh, low miles.....£2,995



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- 06 06 VAUXHALL Astra SRI 1796cc 5-dr hatchback. Metallic silver, a/c, radio/cd, fsh, remote central locking, 80k£3,695
- 57 07 FORD KA Zetec 1297cc 3-dr Hatchback. In black, 2 keys, radio/CD, power steering, e/windows, FSH, low miles 30k£3,495
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- 54 04 FORD Focus 1796cc Zetec 5-dr hatchback. In blue, radio/cd, a/c, remote central locking, fsh, low miles£2,995
- 52 02 BMW 318 Si 1995cc 4-dr Saloon. In blue, 2 keys, cruise control, traction control, A/C, CD multi changer, parking sensors, full service history, 65k£2,995
- 02 02 FORD Focus ST 170, 1988cc 3-dr hatchback. In black, 6 speed manual, traction control, a/c, s/h, radio/cd£2,195
- 52 02 SKODA Octavia RS 1781cc. Metallic silver, half black leather sports seats, reverse sensors, traction control, FSH, remote central locking, radio/cd, 2 keys, a/c£1,995
- 02 02 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi 3-dr. In silver, pas, e/w, a/con, full service history, new MoT on purchase, 89k, ...£1,895
- 02 02 VOLVO V40 SE in metallic grey, 5-dr estate, full leather interior, cruise control, radio/CD, a/c, full service history, 2 keys£1,795
- 03 03 RENAULT Megane Scenic 1390cc MPV. In blue, air con, E/W, E/M, radio/cassette, 1/2 leather seats, 79k£1,695
- 51 01 RENAULT Clio 1149cc Expression 16v 3-dr hatchback. Silver, 1 owner, sunroof, e/w, cam belt recently changed, 79k£1,695
- 51 01 TOYOTA Avensis 1.85-dr. In silver, sat nav, air con, E/W, FSH, 3 keys, 93k£1,595

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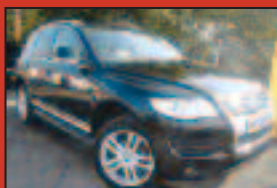
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GEM sport

AS WALES LOOK BACK ON LOST OPPORTUNITIES... LESSONS THERE TO BE LEARNT FOR NEXT RUGBY WORLD CUP

AFTER seven weeks of rugby heroics and missing out on a first World Cup final by just one point (8-9) to France in a semi-final Wales knew they should have won, despite being a man down – it was inevitable that the battle for ‘bronze’ should prove something of an anti-climax at Eden Park, Auckland – with the main event taking place there two days later.

The young team had been dismissed as ‘no-hopers’ by most pundits outside Wales (and some inside) before the tournament began; but had won widespread acclaim for the manner of their displays in a tough pool D, beginning with the battling 16-17 loss to defending champions, South Africa – and also the 22-10 quarter final victory over Ireland.

Having made the critics sit up with gutsy performances of style and power, and a robust defence built on phenomenal physical fitness, they had seen their hopes cruelly dashed by a French team that had seemed there for the taking.

Now head coach Warren Gatland had to raise them once again for one last effort against Australia, for the consolation prize of third place in RWC 2011.

The two nations had, of course, been there before – at the first World Cup in 1987, when Wales scraped a 22-21 win through a late Adrian Hadley try, converted from the touchline by full back Paul Thornburn.

That was followed by nine consecutive vic-

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

tories for the men from Oz, only broken in Grand Slam year 2005, when Wales won 24-22 in Cardiff.

Moreover, the overall record shows Australia winning 20 of the 31 fixtures between the two since 1908, with Wales winning 10 and one match drawn.

Memories were still fresh of the 16-25 defeat to Australia in Cardiff on November 6 last year, so Wales knew the size of the task facing them on Saturday against the pre-tournament second favourites.

In the event, it proved a test too far for a gallant young Welsh side that failed to rise to the heights of excellence they had earlier reached in this World Cup, as the cumulative effect of those sterling efforts and loss of key players finally took their toll.

Coming under intense pressure from the outset, they fell behind to a soft converted try within 12 minutes and although James Hook landed a simple penalty to reduce arrears, the first half was marked by repeated Welsh handling errors and missed kicking opportunities.

Leigh Halfpenny had a chance to cut the Wallabies' lead with a long-range penalty, but was unsuccessful; then Hook, who was having another miserable time at outside half, skewed a penalty kick after the interval and then failed to convert a typical poacher's try by Stephen Williams which had inched Wales ahead 8-7.

Just as in the semi-final, Hook was replaced by the steady hand of veteran Stephen Jones, who kicked a penalty – but Australia regained the lead with two penalties and a drop goal, before George North made a courageous last-ditch tackle to prevent a certain try.

However, the Wallabies were not to be denied for long and went over for a second touchdown that made the score 21-11 in their favour.

Battling Wales had the last word when Halfpenny scampered over for a try converted by Jones, but it came too late – the final 18-21 score-line bringing down the curtain on a brave Rugby World Cup challenge that had won them many admirers in New Zealand.

While there will be those who say that once again it was a familiar story of ‘so near, yet so far’, for Wales, who are still not quite able to close the narrow gap between heroic defeat and a tight-fought victory, the Welsh camp surely have cause for real satisfaction.

Not least is the final proof that Wales now have fearless young players fit and able to compete on a level playing field for 80 minutes with the best in the world and have the confidence and innate skills to match them.

They have also shown that they are capable of matching the level of intensity and controlled aggression of southern hemisphere sides and thus no longer need to hold them in awe, as has so often been the case in the past.

True, Wales patently lack the strength in depth available to the likes of New Zealand (who were able to overcome the loss of key personnel and still win the World Cup with a fourth choice outside half on Sunday).

In contrast, the absence of irreplaceable tighthead Adam Jones, captain Sam Warburton and No 10 Rhys Priestland, proved fatal to Welsh hopes in the closing stages.

The loss of pack anchorman Jones, in particular, was shown to stark effect, not only against France, but also in the ‘bronze medal’ game (where Australia suddenly discovered they had a scrum!).

So, there is much for Gatland and his fellow coaches to ponder back home, as they reflect on a World Cup that exceeded all expectations, but by the same token, was deeply frustrating because of the slip-ups that cost Wales dear.

They could be forgiven for musing that it was a huge opportunity lost – and that but for their catalogue of misfortune (and a place-kicking crisis of confidence) it could have been Wales, and not France, facing the strangely below-par All Blacks, who scrambled to an 8-7 win in the dour final on Sunday.

Could a more expansive Wales have gone one score better than the French and caused a shock of seismic proportions in world rugby? Alas, we will never know.

Suffice to say that most of the squad are young enough to apply the lessons learnt Down Under and can now look forward to the next World Cup on ‘home soil’ with justified confidence.

One point in it as Athletic lose their 19-month ground record

BRIDGEND
Athletic's 19-month home league ground record came to an end with a narrow 18-17 defeat by Llangennech.

The Athletic opened with a first-minute penalty kicked by outside half Corey Butler, but this was cancelled out in the third minute by one from the visitors' outside half, Ricky Williams.

Butler restored the Athletic lead with a 12th-minute penalty.

The Athletic have fielded 32 different players in eight league games and were looking a little disjointed, with too many unforced handling

errors.

From one such error Llangennech won a scrum just outside the Athletic 22 on the 20th minute. They went blindside and a missed tackle on the scrum half saw the line open up for No 8 Ashley Bamfield to cross wide. They cancelled each other out for the second quarter, with the visitors holding an 8-6 half time advantage.

The Athletic came more into the game in the third quarter. Lock Kyle Galtry and No 8 Stuart Edbrooke, making their first league appearances, led the way in the pack, along with hooker Stuart Nation.

In the backs, scrum half Aled Thomas was energetic around the field and centre Simone Ragusi proved elusive with some good runs.

An illegal shoulder charge saw a Llangennech player receive a yellow card. Outside half Butler kicked the penalty to put the Athletic 9-8 ahead.

Three minutes later,

Bridgend Athletic 17
Llangennech 18
PHOTOGRAPHS by GLENNSPORTS
REPORT by ADRIAN BURT

Galtry won possession from a five-metre line-out. The Athletic set up a maul and hooker Stuart Nation peeled off to cross for his fourth try of the season.

The lead was short lived, as Llangennech hoisted a high kick into the Athletic 22 and a favourable bounce saw centre Gareth Walters cross under the posts. Williams' conversion saw the visitors take a narrow 15-14 lead.

Butler struck back with an excellent 40-metre drop goal to put the Athletic back in the driving seat at 17-15.

With five minutes remaining an unnecessary illegal tackle by the Athletic 40 metres out and near the touchline saw the Athletic player given a yellow card.

It proved costly, as full back Aled Roberts stepped up to kick an

excellent penalty to put the visitors 18-17 ahead.

The Athletic then had a similar penalty to retrieve the situation. Butler had won the game against Narbeth earlier in the season with a last ditch kick.

However, on this occasion the youngster failed to make proper contact and there was to be no repeat of last season, when a Simon Mustoe try with the last move of the match retrieved the situation for the Athletic.

It is on to Waunarlwydd this coming Saturday, where the Athletic secured third place last season with a bonus point win.

All Athletic supporters hope the team can rise to the occasion and record a much needed away win this season.



ABOVE: Centre Simone Ragusi breaks clear.



ABOVE: No 8 Stuart Edbrooke with captain Matthew Hillman in support.

Phoenix work hard for win

PENCOED
Phoenix had to work hard for this win over a much improved Croesyceiliog side containing two former Welsh internationals.

Phoenix made the perfect start, scoring in the opening minute. Under pressure in their own 22, Phoenix turned defence into attack, with

CROESYCEILIOG LADIES 0
PENCOED PHOENIX 10

centre Amy Stevens cleaning up a loose ball before flicking a pass on to wing Sammy Jo Humphrey, who set off on an 80 metre run to outpace the desperate home cover defence and score at the posts; Jade Mullen converted.

Phoenix then defended a series of scrums

close to their own line. The front row of Alana Shakespeare, Lowri Reeves, and Leigh Francis remained solid.

Phoenix countered and outside half Mullen broke before further handling almost brought a second score. Phoenix then picked up a yellow card for a technical

offence, and defended well against the big Croesyceiliog pack to lead at the interval 0-7.

The second half was to and fro, Phoenix hooker Reeves doing well to take a loose bouncing ball in her 22. Humphrey then took a high ball, before a kick and chase of some 50 metres put Phoenix into the home half.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 35)

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